

RDA TASMANIA SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE TASMANIAN FREIGHT EQUALISATION SCHEME SUBMISSION

19 September 2024



Introduction

Regional Development Australia Tasmania (RDA Tasmania) welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission to the Select Committee on the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme.

As the only island State, our region is dependent on sea and air access to reach the rest of the nation.

The Regional Development Australia program is an Australian Government initiative established to encourage partnership between all levels of government to enhance the growth and development of Australia's regional communities. RDA committees operate under the national RDA Charter and report to the Australian Government on key outcomes. A national network of RDA committees cover the nation and RDA Tasmania represents the entire state of Tasmania.

Please note, this submission is a brief, general view. The Tasmanian Logistics Committee is responding with a more detailed, industry led perspective.

RDA Tasmania has previously submitted papers and reports including the [RDA Tasmania TFES Case Study Paper](#) (2018), and A Case for Southbound Extension (2019) reports.

Regional transport equity

Retaining and strengthening the focus on equity and regional diversity is important to ensure our regions can adapt and thrive.

Tasmania has a heavy reliance on shipping services. The Australian Government recognises the importance of shipping and the efficient transport of goods and passengers across Bass Strait to Tasmania's broader economy through the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme (TFES), TFES Southbound Assistance and the Bass Strait Passenger Vehicle Equalisation Scheme (BSPVES), to help offset shipping costs faced by shippers and passengers across Bass Strait.

These schemes are designed to reduce the transport disadvantage faced by Tasmania and assist our producers to compete in markets on the mainland by helping to alleviate the cost of travel across Bass Strait. We look forward to results of the next Monitoring Report from BITRE for the four years to 2022-2023, due for comment in October of this year.

Australia is a varied and diverse country with different regions that face unique challenges in freight and supply chains, both from geography, product and industry mix. RDA Tasmania strongly advocates for the review and updating of TFES to continue to adapt to change and create greater regional equity.

Conclusion

RDA Tasmania commends the Australian Government on establishing the Select Committee on the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme and offer this brief regional perspective for consideration.

For further information and to expand on any issues, please contact:

Chief Executive Officer
Regional Development Australia - Tasmania