



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

20 September 2024

Senator Tammy Tyrell  
Chair - Select Committee on the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: [ffes.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:ffes.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Senator

Please find enclosed the Tasmanian Government's submission to the Senate Select Committee on the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme (The Committee).

The submission draws attention to the unique transport disadvantages that Tasmanian businesses face compared to their regional mainland counterparts. The underlying driver of this disadvantage is Tasmania's position as an island-based, export-focused economy.

While the Tasmanian Government is committed to a range of strategic, land-side supply chain efficiency measures, the Bass Strait crossing is proportionally the single largest transport cost in the supply chain of a typical Tasmanian business. Assistance to off-set sea transport cost disadvantage therefore plays a substantial and ongoing role in helping Tasmanian industries remain competitive.

The Tasmanian Government welcomes the Committee inquiry as an opportunity for all Tasmanian stakeholders to provide input and to share perspectives on where improvements can be made to the benefit of all users.

The Tasmanian Government supports changes to the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme (the Scheme) that improve efficiency and simplicity for claimants, reduce overall administrative costs and improve confidence in the integrity and transparency of the Scheme.

It is understood that much of the impetus for the current inquiry relates to difficulties in understanding eligibility for the Scheme, administrative frustrations, and barriers to access experienced by many businesses. This is especially likely to be smaller businesses that may ship less than full container loads of freight. The Tasmanian Government has consistently advocated for changes that improve the operation, simplicity, timeliness, and fairness of the Scheme.

It is the Tasmanian Government's position that Tasmanian businesses should be no worse off under any changes to the Scheme.

The Tasmanian Government looks forward to working cooperatively with the Committee throughout the inquiry to aid in the understanding the shipping and freight challenges facing Tasmania.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Rockliff MP  
**Premier**  
**Minister for Infrastructure**