



MEDIA RELEASE

RUTH FORREST MLC

PO BOX 104, WYNYARD TAS 7325 TEL: 03 6443 8600 FAX: 03 6443 8603

AIR ACCESS TO KING ISLAND A MAJOR ISSUE

Murchison MLC Ruth Forrest visited King Island last week and met with many local residents including land owners to discuss issues related to the clearing of native vegetation on King Island and other areas of concern to King Island residents.

Ms Forrest discussed a number of issues with residents, but the major issue for those living and working on King Island has been, and continues to be, access to and from the island for both freight and people.

“Whilst business, industry and residents have welcomed the recent changes to the freight equalisation scheme, the cost, efficiency, safety and convenience of air services for movement of people as opposed to freight, particularly to the Tasmanian mainland, were raised as major issues for all King Islanders” Ms Forrest said.

Ms Forrest also attended the Wine and Cheese Evening and exhibition at the Town Hall, celebrating 100 years of Local Government on King Island. Messages had been sent to the King Island Council from past residents of King Island, with some being read, in part, to those in attendance.

“Air and sea services are not a new issue for King Island as it was interesting to note that recollections of life on King Island 40 - 50 years ago included issues surrounding air and sea services” Ms Forrest stated.

Ms Forrest has requested that any residents, industry or business representatives, who wish to provide details of their concerns or experience with regard to air services, contact her office via email at ruth.forrest@parliament.tas.gov.au or in writing to PO Box 104 Wynyard, 7325. Phone contact can also be made during office hours of 9.30am to 4pm, Monday to Friday on (03) 6443 8600.

“The collation of this information, related to the personal experiences and challenges of air access to and from King Island, will enable discussion with service providers and Government to address the issues and challenges now and into the future for residents, business and industry of King Island” Ms Forrest stated.

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For further information contact Ruth Forrest on 0419 879 524