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Minister for Local Government

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15 JUN 2026

Mr Peter George MP
Member for Franklin

C/- haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au


Dear Mr George

In the House of Assembly on 28 May 2026, you asked the following question:

My question comes from Tasmanians in my constituency and elsewhere about a planned week-long pause of the Spirit of Tasmania service. The Deloraine Craft Fair is the largest in the southern hemisphere, with over 25,000 locals and tourists during three days. It's a crucial week for the economy of the north west and the whole state, from 30 October to 1 November, but TT-Line has paused all ferry services from 23 October for seven days, which will prevent exhibitors and tourists from arriving at the Deloraine Craft Fair on time. Will you direct TT-Line to review the timing of its pause on services to prevent a huge impact on the craft fair and the north west tourist income?

The Tasmanian Government is aware of the planned temporary pause in Spirit of Tasmania sailings from 23 October as TT-Line undertakes transition arrangements associated with the introduction of its new vessels. This schedule is currently under review, with an expectation the duration of the pause will be reduced where operationally feasible.

TT-Line has been actively engaging with the Tasmanian Craft Fair organisers to mitigate any potential impacts. This includes establishing a dedicated Special Event booking page and reserving vehicle and cabin capacity on the final sailing prior to the pause, on 22 October, specifically for craft fair exhibitors.

In addition, stallholders booked through this arrangement will be prioritised and advised if any additional sailings become available during the paused period, allowing them to adjust their travel closer to the event if possible.

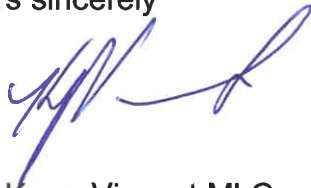
It is important to note a relatively small number of exhibitors - approximately 44 - are estimated to travel from interstate using the Spirit of Tasmania, and historically only a limited number have utilised the special event booking system.

TT-Line has met directly with event organisers and will continue to work constructively with them, as well as with tourism stakeholders, to support exhibitors and minimise disruption. This includes exploring accommodation packages for those who may need to arrive earlier than planned.

While operational decisions of TT-Line must balance broader network, safety and vessel transition requirements, every reasonable effort is being made to reduce impacts and support this important regional event.

Thank you for your question and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Vincent', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport