

**Deputy Premier  
Minister for Education and Training  
Minister for Infrastructure  
Minister for Advanced Manufacturing and Defence Industries**

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5 November 2018

Hon Rosemary Armitage MLC  
Inquiry Chair - Legislative Council Inquiry in to the North-East Railway Corridor  
Legislative Council Government Administration Committee 'B'  
Attention: Ms. Natasha Exel, Committee Secretary  
By email: [ner@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:ner@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Ms Armitage

I am writing to provide a submission on behalf of the Tasmanian Government to the Legislative Council Government Administration Committee 'B' Inquiry into Tasmania's North-East Railway Corridor.

The Tasmanian Government has undertaken considerable work to assess the Dorset Council's 'Rail Trail' project and Launceston and North East Railway (LNER) heritage tourist project, and is able to provide the following information relevant to the Inquiry terms of reference.

Initially, Dorset Council developed a project for a 'Rail Trail' between Coldwater Creek and Scottsdale and received \$1.47 million funding from the Australian Government under its National Stronger Regions Fund.

The Tasmanian Government developed the *Strategic Infrastructure Corridors (Strategic and Recreational Use) Act 2016* to facilitate this project, and projects elsewhere on non-operational rail lines, while protecting the strategic value of railway corridors.

Subsequently, the Launceston and North East Railway (LNER) developed a proposal for heritage rail between Launceston and Scottsdale.

The Tasmanian Government requested Infrastructure Tasmania to undertake a review of LNER's proposal. Infrastructure Tasmania sought independent advice from two consultants – an assessment of the viability of LNER to bring the track to a necessary standard to run a heritage tourist railway (RayLink Consulting) and an assessment of the capability and capacity of LNER to upgrade the North-East Line and run a sustainable service (Linqage International).

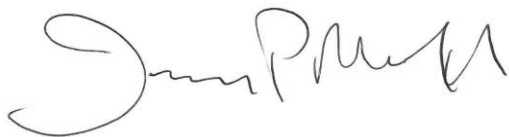
Infrastructure Tasmania's review recommended that the Department of Treasury and Finance be requested to commission an economic analysis of the benefits and risks of both projects to the Tasmanian Community to inform the Government's position on the future use of the North-East Line.

The Department of Treasury and Finance undertook an assessment of both projects to evaluate the costs, benefits and risks of the two proposals. In response to this assessment, the Tasmanian Government supports both projects to proceed on the North-East Line, with:

- Dorset Council to use the section between Lilydale Falls and Scottsdale; and
- LNER to use the section between Turners Marsh and Lilydale, with a second stage extending between Turners Marsh and Coldwater Creek to access the operational Launceston to Bell Bay Line to be considered in the future.

Please find attached copies of Infrastructure Tasmania's review and supporting consultancies, the Department of Treasury and Finance assessment and the Tasmanian Government's response. I trust this information will be of assistance to the Committee

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hon Jeremy Rockliff'.

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