



7 September 2017

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC  
Inquiry Chair

Dear Ms Forrest

Thank you for the opportunity for TasPorts to contribute to the Legislative Council Sub-Committee inquiring into the King Island Shipping and Freight Services.

**In response to the Sub-Committee's request for information on 10 August 2017, I advise as follows:**

Question 1;

The Department of State Growth is ultimately responsible for upgrades to the Grassy Harbour Road. A TasPorts Project Planning team is intending to scope the traffic management project at the Port of Grassy in the next few months as part of a Port Master Planning process that is underway state-wide. Following the Port Master Planning process, TasPorts intends to engage a traffic engineer to provide an assessment of options. At that point the Project Planning team will discuss development of the new holding lane with State Growth.

Question 2;

There are no "slow unloading times" at Grassy. Livestock operations at Grassy involves the removal of empty trailers from the vessel, moving of the trailers out to farms around King Island for loading with livestock and returning to port for loading onto the vessel. This can add four to five hours in port depending on the turnaround time achieved by our customers. This process is fully agreed with our customers and accommodated in schedule planning.

**In response to the Sub-Committee's request for information of 14 August 2017, I advise as follows:**

There is no written correspondence between the Government and TasPorts relating to the acquisition of the "Investigator". The TasPorts Board approved the charter hire of the "Investigator" and TasPorts has not contemplated its acquisition.

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TasPorts provided an email update to the Minister on 23<sup>rd</sup> June regarding a potential vessel candidate that was inspected in Malaysia. A copy of this email is attached. Further updates regarding this and the ongoing search for a replacement vessel were provided verbally. As this is a live process and involves the use of an external ship broker to identify multiple potential vessels, Government has remained informed through verbal updates to the Minister's office as and when appropriate.

With respect to the request for information or communications regarding the acquisition of the intended new permanent vessel and communications with the private sector, this is not a process being run by TasPorts and so I am unable to provide any information relevant to this request.

Yours sincerely



Mr Paul Weedon  
**Chief Executive Officer**

>>> On 23 Jun 2017, at 4:24 pm, Paul Weedon <[Paul.Weedon@tasports.com.au](mailto:Paul.Weedon@tasports.com.au)> wrote:

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>>> Rene

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>>> Just a quick note to update you on our vessel visit in Pt Kelang. The vessel looks like a solid candidate to succeed the "Investigator" but there is still a lot of work to do before confirming our interest in the potential acquisition of the ship.

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>>> Specific issue that requires further analysis is the forward ramp, it's load rating and how best to operate the cargo deck in a ro-ro system. The current operator is using shore cranes on its intra Asia service so really don't use the ramp and we'll need to understand the options before getting much further down the process.

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>>> Back on deck over the weekend.

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>>> Cheers

>>> Paul