

Minister for Infrastructure  
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

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24 OCT 2017

The Hon Ruth Forrest MLC  
Inquiry Chair  
Government Administration 'A' Sub Committee  
Parliament of Tasmania  
HOBART TAS 7000

By email: [jenny-mannering@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:jenny-mannering@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Ms Forrest

I write in response to your request for an update on progress on securing a second interim vessel for the Bass Island line to continue to provide a King Island shipping service.

I am pleased to advise that the second interim vessel has been procured by TasPorts to replace the Investigator.

The vessel is a new construction which will be completed over the next three months and will begin providing the King Island freight service this summer, as has been publicly committed.

The new vessel will be around double the capacity of the current vessel. I have attached a fact sheet from Bass Island Line providing more detail.

Bass Island Line, which will operate the service, advises it intends the new vessel to sail southbound from a Victorian port to King Island and then onto a north-west Tasmanian port as a regular service.

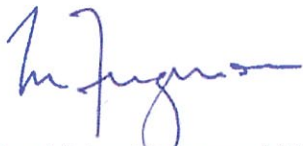
Ports to be utilised by the new vessel in both Victoria and mainland Tasmania are under consideration and will be announced to stakeholders well ahead of the service starting, along with other logistical details.

In terms of freight rates, Bass Island Line advises that it maintained rates at the same level as the previous shipping service provider (SeaRoad). Freight charges will form part of discussions with stakeholders as part of the finalisation of various port arrangements in the near future.

Further, also as per the Government's long-standing commitment, we will provide to the King Island community a report by Thompson Clark Shipping exploring the options for a long-term permanent vessel to be built to service King Island's freight needs.

The Government will consult with the King Island community on what the ideal long-term solution for the Island will be, based upon this Report, including the possibility of a new, custom-built ship for the King Island Freight task.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Ferguson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Michael Ferguson MP  
**Acting Minister for Infrastructure**



25 October 2017

## Bass Island Line: New vessel factsheet

This factsheet provides useful information about the new vessel for the Bass Island Line (BIL) service.

### **Bigger, faster more reliable**

The new vessel is much bigger and faster than the current *Investigator II* with:

- 83% increased deck space
- 120% increase in weight capacity
- 90% increase in container capacity
- 20% increase in running speed (from 10 knots to 12 knots)

The new landing craft (LCT) vessel has substantially better sea-state handling in the Bass Strait. This will improve the reliability of the service. The "Ship Comparison" table on the next page provides more information on the differences between the two vessels.

### **Next steps**

BIL expects the new vessel to be completed by the end of the year. Sea trials will be conducted in January and the new vessel will come into service shortly afterwards.

### **The route**

The intention is for the new vessel to sail southbound from a Victorian port to King Island and then onto a North West Tasmanian port. The exact sailing schedule (including the ports in Victoria and North West Tasmania) will be discussed with customers and stakeholders. The schedule will be announced before the new vessel comes into service.

BIL will consider alternative ports depending on the cargo task and schedule integrity.

### **Continuity of service**

The new vessel has been purchased outright and belongs to BIL. This will provide greater continuity of service

because it cannot be recalled by the owners as can happen with a boat that is chartered.

### **Frequency**

BIL intends for the new vessel to sail from Victoria once a week. The most appropriate day to call at King Island will form part of the discussions with customers.

### **Freight charges**

BIL maintained freight rates at the same level as the previous shipping service provider. Freight charges will form part of discussions with stakeholders and the finalisation of various port arrangements in the near future.

### **Reliable and safe**

BIL remains committed to providing King Island with a reliable and safe shipping service to and from the Island.

### **Communicating**

BIL and TasPorts will remain in regular contact with customers and stakeholders about the new vessel over coming months.

### **The name**

The interim name for the new vessel is the *KI 2*. The final name will be announced by the State Government in due course.

### **The future**

The State Government is continuing to consider what an ideal new-build vessel for King Island would look like. An in-depth consultation with all stakeholders is expected in due course.

### **Contact**

Customers can call the BIL contact number for further information: **1300 038 228**.

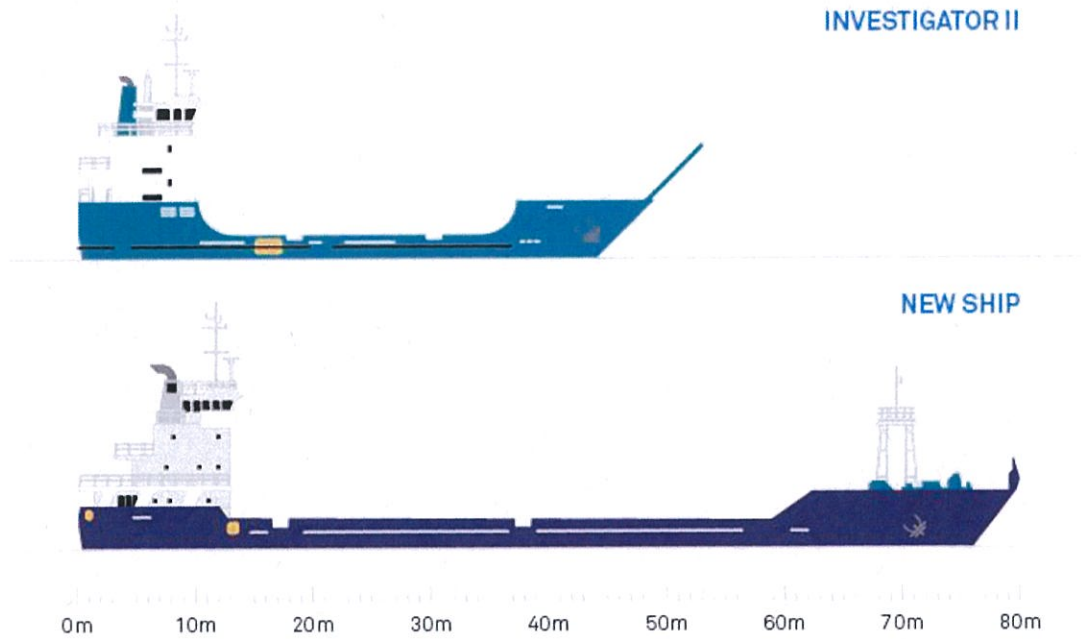




Bass Island Line



# SHIP COMPARISON



VESSEL NAME	INVESTIGATOR II	NEW SHIP
Current owner	TOLL	Vitawani
Location	Australia	Sibu, Malaysia
Year built	2014	2017
Condition	Second Hand	New
LOA	53m	80m
Breadth	15.00m	16.00m
Draft	2.80m	3.68m
Deck area	405m <sup>2</sup>	747m <sup>2</sup>
Tonnage (GRT)	1019 tonnes	1758 tonnes
TEU capacity	66 teu	114 teu
Total cattle trailers	8 x 12.2m	20 x 12.2m
DWT (max cargo weight)	870 tonnes	2200 tonnes
Container stack weight	45t	60t
Free running speed	10 knots	12 knots
Lifespan	27	30

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**Communications contact:**  
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