



2026 Tasmanian Freight & Logistics Forum



Wednesday 22 April 2026 8.30am to 5.00pm

University of Tasmania (UTAS)

Sir Stanley Burbury Lecture Theatre, Sandy Bay Campus Hobart



A special note of appreciation is extended to our valued event sponsors for their support in making this forum possible. Please refer to the QR code for further details on our sponsors and their services.

MC Paul Zalai Director FTA /
Secretariat APSA

Panel Chair Brett Charlton
Director, The Ship Consulting /
Tasmanian Regional Representative –
FTA/APSA

8.30am

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- **Minister Kerry Vincent MLC**
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Local Government and Minister for Housing and Planning (Tasmania)

PANEL 1. DOMESTIC SHIPPING

- **Patrick Guarino** (General Manager – Searoad Pty Ltd)
- **Geoff Gruebner** (Executive General Manager – Straitlink Pty Ltd)
- **Ian Whitechurch** (TT Lines Tasmania)

The domestic shipping panel will provide an in-depth look at the future of Bass Strait shipping in Tasmania, a critical link for trade, tourism, and regional supply chains. With significant new investments in vessels, port infrastructure and capacity expansion, the panel will explore how these developments are shaping the shipping landscape, creating new opportunities, and addressing emerging challenges. Attendees will hear directly from leaders representing all three major carriers operating across the Bass Strait, gaining unique perspectives on:

- Strategic priorities for fleet modernisation and vessel deployment
- Port development initiatives and their impact on efficiency and connectivity
- Capacity growth, logistics planning, and the challenges of balancing demand with sustainability
- Emerging opportunities for industry collaboration and innovation

MORNING TEA

10am to 10.30am

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- **Senator Tammy Tyrrell**
Senator for Tasmania and past Chair of the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme committee

PANEL 2. RAIL AND PORTS

- **Josh Marshall** (General Manager, Projects, TasRail)
- **Leigh Petchel** (Chief Finance and Strategy Officer – Port of Melbourne)
- **Michel De Vos** (Manager Assets and Technical Services CEO - TasPorts)

The rail and ports panel will examine Tasmania's critical transport infrastructure and its role in supporting efficient supply chains and economic growth. With increasing demands on rail networks and port operations, the panel will explore opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and strategic investment across the freight ecosystem. Attendees will gain insights on:

- Current and future rail infrastructure developments and their impact on freight efficiency
- Port operations, modernisation initiatives, and capacity planning
- Collaboration opportunities across the supply chain to improve connectivity and logistics outcomes
- Innovative solutions to enhance productivity, sustainability, and competitiveness.

LUNCH

12pm to 1pm

VENUE HOST

- **Teresa Lloyd**
(Chair, Board of Directors, Australian Maritime College)

SITUATION REPORT – FUEL SECURITY

- **Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts**

PANEL 3. SHIPPERS' PERSPECTIVE

- **Rod Bender** (Vice President Renewables & Business Development, Norske Skogg)
- **Shannon Cox** (Regional Operational Head, Trafigura)

Against the backdrop of evolving trade dynamics, increasing export opportunities and shifting supply chain patterns, this panel will explore how supply chain participants navigate challenges while creating opportunities for Tasmania's exporters. Attendees will gain perspectives on:

- Global trade trends and how they impact Australian and Tasmanian exporters
- Opportunities for Tasmania in international shipping and freight networks

AFTERNOON TEA

2.30pm to 3pm

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- **Senator the Hon. Anthony Chisholm**
Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Federal)

PANEL 4. OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

- **Hans Van Pelt** (Director and Principal Affairs of State)
- **Thomas Holyman** (Vice President, Ocean Freight - Australia & New Zealand at Toll Global)
- **Chris Fox** (Managing Director – Link Logistics)
- *Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade - Invitation pending*

The final session will synthesise the key themes emerging throughout the day and examine them through three critical lenses — industry, exporter and government. With representation spanning commercial freight operations, global commodity trade and Commonwealth trade policy, this panel will explore:

- The practical implications of freight performance on export competitiveness
- The intersection between logistics markets and trade diplomacy
- Where regulatory, infrastructure or policy reform could deliver material improvement
- How Tasmania can strengthen its position within national and global supply chains

Rather than a simple wrap-up, this session aims to identify clear signals for collaboration, reform and strategic direction in the years ahead.

CLOSE

4.30pm



Continue the conversation at our post-event networking function at the Derwent Sailing Club, only a short walk from the forum venue at 23 Marieville Esplanade, Hobart Tasmania – sponsored by DSV Air & Sea