



King Island Council

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 25, 17

PURPOSE BUILT SOLUTION

King Island Mayor Duncan McFie has strongly endorsed proposals to provide King Island with a purpose-built vessel to meet future shipping needs.

Deputy Premier Jeremy Rockliff is reported to be investigating the feasibility of a triangulated service between King Island, Melbourne and Tasmania utilising a purpose-built vessel. "A ship built for King Island providing a service for King Island is obviously the ideal solution", remarked Mayor McFie. "However, this means that any proposed interim service to replace the current arrangement will need to be robust, as a new ship will not be constructed overnight," he added.

King Island is currently being serviced by Investigator II, a last minute, temporary solution introduced to keep King Island's freight flowing until a more robust service could be identified. "The short-term lease of the Investigator is coming to an end so if we have to wait for a purpose built vessel we need to maintain a full service across Bass Strait, with a vessel capable of withstanding our weather conditions and able to handle fluctuations in freight demand," said Mayor McFie.

King Island Council recognises the concerns of the community arising from the current service with the Mayor and his colleagues striving to identify what the problems are and whether they're the fault of the shipping service or others in the supply chain, "We know people are struggling to cope with the change and we're doing everything we can to liaise between Tasports, Bass Island Line and others in the supply chain to iron out any problems. King Island is currently experiencing a rapidly growing economy which has the potential to benefit the whole of Tasmania but we will need a reliable and affordable shipping service. I am confident that the State Government are highly cognisant of these facts".

-ends-

Media Contacts:

Mayor Duncan McFie
0428 621 761

David Laugher
GENERAL MANAGER
Phone: 03 6462 9000