

14th December 2017

The Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics
Canberra ACT 2601
BITRE@infrastructure.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Tasmanian Equalisation Scheme – Other Markets (DRAFT Report)

The Tasmanian Logistics Committee (TLC) is pleased to provide a brief submission in respect of the above named draft report which has been recently released by The Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE)

Regarding the content of this draft report, the TLC believes the data and analysis is an accurate reflection of the current use of the TFES for international exports (or other markets).

The TLC notes that further uptake of the scheme is dependent on a boarder understanding of its existence by the Tasmanian business community and growth in international export trade by existing businesses and new entrants entering the market place – to this regard the Tasmanian Logistics Committee is committed to assisting industry and government entities in promoting the TFES where possible.

Measure of indirect benefits to Tasmania

Whilst this report provides statistical analysis of the claims for the period ending 30th June 2017, it does fail to capture the indirect beneficial outcomes Tasmanian exporters are in turn gaining by utilising this scheme. These outcomes include:

- Access to international markets
- Improvement in diversification of sales to further include international markets
- Increased investment in businesses (including plant and equipment)
- Additional employment
- Improved confidence in long term business planning
- Commitment to research and development

Additionally these benefits have flowed onto ancillary service providers and contractors who provide support to the business activities of these Tasmanian exporters. These “satellite” businesses deliver significant employment and investment into Tasmanian regional communities and their contribution to the Tasmanian economy should also be considered in any analysis.

The TLC, in conjunction with RDA Tasmania has interviewed a number of Tasmanian exporters to ascertain and understand the outcomes they have achieved since the extended TFES was introduced in 2016.

A finalised report of our work (detailing the findings from our research) will be available in early 2018 and we believe the contents of this report will provide complimentary evidence to the BITRE report.

It is the recommendation of this committee that BITRE consider a similar undertaking as part of their annual reporting on the TFES.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Brett Charlton".

Brett Charlton
Chairman – Tasmanian Logistics Committee