

Minister for Housing and Planning  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
Minister for Local Government

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8 APR 2026

Mr Craig Garland MP  
Member for Braddon

c/- Laura.Ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

*CRAIG*  
Dear Mr Garland

On 3 March 2026 you asked me the following constituent question in the House of Assembly:

*Over the years I have been contacted by several King Island producers and farmers who are concerned about limited and unreliable freight access to Victorian markets. My question comes from a conversation with Noel on King Island wondering if the Government will commit to establishing a direct King Island to Geelong shipping service to ensure fair market access and stronger returns for island businesses. Additionally, what steps will the Minister and TasPorts take to support a larger and more reliable vessel transport freight between the north-west coast and King Island to address the shipping frustrations the Government has caused the community?*

TasPorts subsidiary company Bass Island Line continues to deliver reliable freight services supporting King Island's economy and community via its weekly service between the ports of Devonport and Grassy with its vessel, the John Duigan.

TasPorts also remains committed to ensuring long-term freight resilience for King Island, including maintaining dedicated shipping capability and responding to periods of disruption such as during the 2024 drought conditions, when the service was doubled to twice a week in support of the Island's livestock producers.

Contrary to your assertion the Government has caused shipping frustrations to the King Island community, shipping to and from the Port of Grassy has been supported by successive Tasmanian Liberal Governments since the cessation of the former SeaRoad commercial shipping service more than six years ago.

It was a Liberal Government that created the Bass Island Line service which has continued to provide the only regular, scheduled service to and from the Island.

Alternative shipping services are provided by commercial competitors Eastern Line and a new entrant to the Island, Bass Strait Freight. Unlike its competitors, the Bass Island Line service operates a scheduled, dedicated weekly service rather than sailing only when supported by profitable freight volumes.

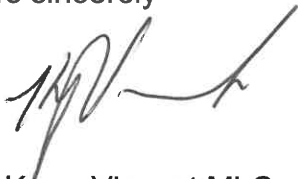
While the original Bass Island Line service to the Island included a weekly call to the Port of Melbourne, this service was not supported by customers, leading to losses of

more than \$4 million a year. It resulted in a change to service operations where King Island's Victorian destination-and-origin freight is trans-shipped through the Port of Devonport on SeaRoad vessels.

In 2018-19 TasPorts led a process with the support of the Department of State Growth to gauge market interest in the provision of a commercial shipping service. No market participants were short-listed as no proposals demonstrated they were able to achieve an improved service outcome without substantial ongoing involvement and support from TasPorts.

It is the Government's intention to ensure a service is provided for as long as necessary until a sustainable alternative solution is developed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kerry Vincent', written in a cursive style.

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC  
**Minister for Infrastructure and Transport**