Treasurer
Minister for Macquarie Point Urban Renewal
Leader of the House

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Tasmanian Government

27 OCT 2026

Hon Ruth Forest MLC
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Ms Forrest

Thank you for your letter dated 1 September 2026 requesting that we, as Shareholding Ministers, direct TT-Line to share its privileged legal advice with the Auditor-General.

We do not intend to direct TT-Line to disclose its privileged legal advice.

Legal professional privilege is a fundamental legal protection that preserves the confidentiality of communications between a client and its legal advisers. It exists to ensure that clients are able to obtain frank and candid legal advice. It would not be appropriate for us to intervene in relation to TT-Line's claim for legal professional privilege or seek disclosure of confidential information that belongs to the Company.

More broadly, any expectation that Shareholding Ministers would compel Government businesses to waive legal professional privilege would have significant implications for the administration of Government businesses and the treatment of privileged communications. The question of whether privileged information should be disclosed is, therefore, a matter for TT-Line, having regard to its legal rights and obligations, and for the Auditor-General in the exercise of his statutory functions.

You also refer to a current impasse between the Auditor-General and TT-Line's executive, in relation to its solvency. We do not accept that differing views on this matter necessarily constitute an impasse, or that they require resolution by Shareholding Ministers.

It is the responsibility of the Directors to consider their duties under the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the solvency of TT-Line and to act accordingly. In contrast, the Auditor-General is required to notify ASIC if he *suspects* that the Board of TT-Line has contravened its obligations under the Corporations Act, including in relation to the solvency of the Company. The Auditor-General has notified ASIC of that suspicion, and this does not override the responsibility of the Directors or need to reconcile with their views.

Thank you for your understanding of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Hon Eric Abetz MP
Treasurer

[redacted]

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

cc: Martin Thompson, Auditor-General