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Tasmanian Government

12 OCT 2026

Ms Anita Dow MP
Member for Braddon

c/- haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Dow

In the House of Assembly on 2 September 2026, you asked the following questions:

My constituent question is from John in Braddon. John asks: was it a coincidence that Spirit IV arrived at 6:30am on Sunday at the same time as the high tide? Why couldn't it arrive later in the day? Will sailings of the new ships be dictated by the tides.

In answer to the first question, no, the first arrival of the new ships was deliberately timed to coincide with high-water slack tide. While TT-Line's Masters and Officers are highly experienced and trained, the first entry of a new vessel into port provides an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the vessel's handling characteristics in local conditions. Undertaking the first entry during slack water minimises external factors such as tidal movement and provides the most controlled conditions for this initial operation.

In answer to the second question, both new vessels are capable of arriving and departing at any time of day or night. The timing of the initial arrival was based on a range of operational considerations, including the tidal conditions and the movements of other vessels within the port.

In answer to the third question, no, the normal operation and scheduling of the new ships will not be dictated by the tides.

Thank you for your question and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport