

MEDIA RELEASE

New Bridgewater Bridge Will Boost Supply Chain Efficiency

The [Australian Logistics Council](#) (ALC) has welcomed the announcement of the \$115 million investment contained in today's Tasmanian State Budget for the construction of a new Bridgewater Bridge.

This decision will now allow the project to proceed, supported by the \$461 million already committed to the project by the Commonwealth Government in this year's [Federal Budget](#).

"Boosting the crossing capacity of the Derwent River with a new Bridgewater Bridge is top economic priority for Tasmania and for the nation," said ALC Managing Director Michael Kilgariff.

"This was evidenced by the project's inclusion as a Priority Initiative on [Infrastructure Australia's](#) most recent iteration of the [Infrastructure Priority List](#)."

"Tasmania faces a unique set of freight logistics challenges as an island state. Improving the efficiency and safety of its supply chains will be essential to continue building on the state's strong economic performance in recent years."

"To achieve that end, it will be vital to ensure Tasmania has the freight infrastructure in place that will meet the needs of a diversifying economy with a growing population. The current Bridgewater Bridge – constructed in 1946 and permitting only one lane of low-speed traffic in each direction – is an impediment to that outcome."

"The construction of a modern, four-lane Derwent River crossing is the key to opening up Tasmania's North-South corridor, allowing for more efficient movement of freight, improving road transport times between key ports in the state's north and Hobart, and providing a safer experience for all road users," Mr Kilgariff said.

"Today's announcement builds on other significant freight-related initiatives in Tasmania which have been supported by ALC."

"These include the recent expansion of the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme (TFES), to support goods going to markets that were not previously eligible to access the scheme, as well as Tranche Two of the Tasmanian Freight Rail Revitalisation Program."

"All these initiatives will make a major contribution to improved supply chain efficiency and safety in Tasmania, and will also support delivery of a more effective [National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy](#)," he concluded.

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