

Adviser: Rick Dunn

Department:

Ministerial RM Ref:

DPAC RM Ref:

Event Brief for the Premier

47th Annual Interferry Conference

8.30am to 9.30am, Monday 6 November 2023

Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart

Order of proceedings: 8.30am Premier arrives
9.30am Premier departs

Note: the conference runs from 4 to 8 November 2023

In attendance (for acknowledgement): Washington State Governor Jay Inslee, **Note:** you are meeting with Jay Inslee on 8 November 2023

Attendees include owners and top-level decision-makers in the global ferry industry – approximately 300 attendees

Department contact: Brett Stewart, Deputy Secretary Resources, Strategy and Policy

On-site event contact: Bernard Dwyer, s.36

Adviser: Ned Whitehouse, s.36 (attending)

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR THE PREMIER

- Each year the international shipping association – Interferry – holds the Annual Interferry Conference.
- The 47th Annual Interferry Conference is being held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor from 4 - 8 November 2023. The conference is being hosted by The Spirit of Tasmania. Officials from Incat, Liferaft Systems Australia, Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre and Australian Maritime College are expected to attend.
- The Governor of the State of Washington, United States (US), Mr Jay Inslee, will attend and address the Interferry Conference as part of a Washington State Governor and Delegation visit. The Governor and accompanying 27 delegates will be briefed by Tasmanian Government officials on Tasmanian trade, Antarctic, renewable energy and tourism matters. Further details on this delegation is in Attachment I.

- The Premier is to deliver a welcome message at the conference's opening alongside Interferry CEO, Mike Corrigan and President, Bernard Dwyer. Given that delegates have already met at the welcome reception, the Premier's Speaking Notes are focused on key industry and strategic issues, rather than on delivering overarching welcome and introductions.
- An article will be published in the Interferry Conference Guide about Tasmania's maritime and manufacturing capabilities – the article is attached to this brief.

BACKGROUND ON INTERFERRY

- Interferry is a worldwide association of over 260 member companies from 40 countries, with more than 1,000 individuals worldwide. Members include ferry operations of all types and sizes including RoPax, RoRo, Cruise Ferries, Fast Ferries, and Passenger-only Ferries.
 - RoRo – is an acronym used in the shipping and ferry industry to describe roll-on/roll-off ships – these ships are designed to carry wheeled cargo as freight, such as cars, motorcycles, trucks, buses and similar.
 - RoPax ferries are ships designed to combine the features of a passenger cruise ship with a RoRo capability.
- The primary purpose of Interferry is to represent the industry on regulatory and policy matters, to speak on behalf of the worldwide ferry industry, and facilitate networking and communications among members.
- Members also include shipbuilders/designers, equipment manufacturers/suppliers, naval architects and engineers, ship brokers and consultants, classification societies, publisher, and information technology, finance, insurance, crewing, and training entities.
- Tasmania has two ferry shipbuilders that operate in national and international markets – Incat Tasmania and Richardson Devine Marine.
- Liferaft Systems and CBG Systems supply marine evacuation systems and marine insulation and fire protection systems to ferry shipbuilders in Australia and overseas. Further detail on Tasmanian companies is below.

Interferry funding agreement

- A total of US\$25,000 was provided by the Tasmanian Government through Tourism and Hospitality to support the planning, delivery and hosting of the 2023 Interferry Conference in Hobart. This support was provided through the Business Events Attraction Fund.
- The funding agreement included three complementary conference registrations which were distributed to Hobart-based industry representatives from Pivot Maritime (Coran Hyland), Australian Maritime College (Rob Palmer) and Dive Works (Andrew Ford).
- The funding agreement also included the allocation of a premium location exhibition space, and an article and advertisement in the Interferry Conference Guide. The exhibition space will be TASMANIAN-branded and participation is a collaboration between the Department of State Growth's Trade, Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT) and Advanced Manufacturing and Defence Industries teams.

LOCAL INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Tasmania's Maritime History and Heritage

- lutriwita / Tasmania is an island with a rich maritime history. For thousands of years, for the palawa / Tasmanian Aboriginal people, and for the settlers that followed, Tasmania's geographical location has necessitated a reliance on the sea.
- Tasmania's waterways are and always have been vital trade routes. Nowadays, lutriwita / Tasmania is home to a diverse, unique and highly impressive range of capabilities across the maritime domain. Tasmanians are recognised around the globe for performing with quiet mastery in shipbuilding and watercraft construction; maritime systems and equipment; port development and ship operations; and research, education and training.
- Tasmania's coastlines have been shaped by the 'Roaring Forties'. These winds roar across the Southern Ocean between South America and Tasmania, creating dangerous conditions for sailors. Since the 1797 wreck of the Sydney Cove on Bass Strait's Preservation Island, more than 1 000 ships have met their end in Tasmanian waters.

Tasmania Maritime Network Inc. (TMN) (<https://www.tmn.org.au/>)

- The TMN is the leading local maritime industry association incorporating innovative Tasmanian companies and organisations. The TMN has extensive membership across different maritime related businesses. State Growth provides secretariat support to the TMN.
- TMN members deliver a diverse range of products, services and advice - from ship building, engineering, manufacturing, safety, education and training to research and development.

Innovation in the maritime sector

- The Tasmanian maritime industry inherently partners with research and scientific institutions to solve problems and innovate. As a result, Tasmania is a centre for excellence in marine product development and advanced design.
- A good example of an innovative maritime company is CBG Systems, who will be exhibiting at Interferry.
- CBG Systems is a leading global innovator that has set benchmarks in several areas of advanced manufacturing with significant defence and civil customers in Australia and overseas.
- CBG Systems started 40 years ago, designing and supplying marine insulation for Incat, and now they have grown into different areas of advanced manufacturing including: vessel structural fire protection, specialised communications and multispectral camouflage solutions.

Tasmanian Success Stories

Incat

- Incat is a world-leading designer and manufacturer of high-speed, lightweight, aluminium vessels and has designed and constructed close to 100 vessels since its inception.
- The Tasmanian Government has recognised the significant contribution that Incat makes to the State as a major manufacturer and employer and has provided past support to Incat.
- Incat is currently constructing a 130-metre vessel for Argentinian ferry operator, Buquebus. This will be Incat's first electric vessel, and when completed in 2025 will be the largest, lightweight, zero emissions ferry operating on any route in the world.

Richardson Devine Marine (RDM)

- RDM specialises in the manufacture of aluminium fast passenger ferries, luxurious overnight cruise vessels and offshore state-of-the-art work boats for international commercial operators.
- RDM's customer centric approach, quality craftsmanship and innovative use of the latest marine equipment have seen the company produce over 80 vessels in the past 34 years.
- RDM has been awarded a New South Wales Government tender for seven 24 metre passenger ferries to be constructed over the next two years. In delivering on this, RDM will continue to support their highly skilled workforce and a strong Tasmanian supply chain.

Liferaft Systems Australia (LSA)

- LSA design and manufacture Marine Evacuation Systems and large capacity life rafts for commercial and military vessels.
- Some of LSA's key customers include the Royal Navy (UK), the United States Navy and the Royal New Zealand Navy
- LSA has its own network of agents in key markets (US and Europe). LSA attended the UK Defence and Security Equipment International Expo 2023.
- LSA is usually an exhibitor with the State Growth Defence Tasmania stand at INDO Pacific, however they aren't exhibiting this year due to attendance at Interferry.

Derwent Ferry

- The Tasmanian Government is committed to delivering a modern and connected public transport system in Greater Hobart that utilises the River Derwent, roads and bridges to provide commuters with an attractive alternative to private car transport.
- This is part of a bigger plan - *Keeping Hobart Moving – Transport Solutions for Our Future*, (the Plan) which is currently out for consultation.

Sprit of Tasmania

- Rauma Marine Constructions (RMC) is progressing with the build of two new Spirit of Tasmania vessels.
- The Tasmanian Government is engaged with TT-Line's dedicated procurement team for the build of the new vessels. The aim is to support TT-Line to identify potential Tasmanian suppliers to maximise Tasmanian content into the new ship builds and the sustainment of the ships once in service.
- Tasmanian businesses have already secured purchase orders from RMC, with others pending.

Tasmania as the Gateway to Antarctica

- Tasmania's geographic location makes it one of the few places in the world that is a natural gateway to Antarctica.
- Our state is known in the Antarctic sector for its logistics capability, strong and united industry network, and strength of niche manufacturing and operational goods and services. These capabilities have been developed over a long period of time and differentiate Hobart from all other gateway cities worldwide.
- The Tasmanian Government's Antarctic Gateway Strategy 2022-2027, developed jointly with industry, underpins our commitment to the sector.

- The Tasmanian Government is focused on working with businesses to access opportunities arising from investment in Antarctic science, traverse, aviation, shipping and station modernisation, and supporting Tasmanian businesses to develop and commercialise new technology for Antarctic science and research, including renewable energy solutions for Antarctic and extreme environments.

Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre (BECRC)

- In October 2022 BECRC invited ReCFIT to become a participant in the Hydrogen Powering of Vessels Project (the Project), a two-year feasibility study looking into the maturity of hydrogen and ammonia-powered vessel technology,
- The Project also aligns with the Green Hydrogen Memorandum of Understanding between Tasmania and the Government of Flanders, which has a priority focus on developing a joint green hydrogen vessel demonstration project. Flanders Investment and Trade are also a participant on the BECRC Project.
- In a few months, BECRC will unveil Tasmania's first 700 kW green hydrogen electrolyser that will power three hydrogen fuel cell electric buses by mid-2024.

The Future of Tasmania's Maritime-Hydrogen Industry

- The Tasmanian Government is close to signing an agreement with the Commonwealth Government which will start the allocation of \$300 million to the Tasmanian Green Hydrogen Hub project in Bell Bay. This project aims to provide common use infrastructure to the precinct which will reduce capital costs for prospective hydrogen and methanol proponents looking to commence export scale production.
- This also has a domestic focus and upon the signing of the agreement, work will begin to explore six key areas for local industry activation. The Tasmanian Government has prioritised Tasmania's marine and maritime sector as the first area to be investigated.

The Australian Maritime College

- The Australian Maritime College (AMC) is part of the University of Tasmania, and is the national institute for maritime education, training, and research. AMC is one of the seven founding members of the International Association of Maritime Universities.
- AMC provides maritime-specific undergraduate courses, post-graduate courses, research and vocational education and training. Training and Consultancy services are also provided through AMC's commercial division, AMC Search Pty Ltd.
- AMC's research capabilities include maritime renewable energy naval architecture fluid dynamics and fluid structure interactions of ship and submarine structures cavitation physics and hydro-acoustics ship, submarine and underwater vehicle manoeuvring and motion prediction, offshore engineering, human centred design, port development, sustainable ports, underwater robotics, maritime safety , logistics and supply chains.

Conference Sponsors

- The Spirit of Tasmania is a 'President' sponsor for this Conference.
- Lifteraft Systems and CBG Systems are silver sponsors and the Tasmania Maritime Network is a bronze sponsor.