

19 October 2022

The Hon. Catherine King MP
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional
Development and Local Government
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Infrastructure Priority List – Tasmanian Proposals

Dear Minister,

I am writing to provide support for two Tasmanian proposals currently on the Infrastructure Priority List. The two proposals are: (i) Hobart Port precinct capacity improvements and (ii) Port of Burnie capacity.

Private Forests Tasmania is an independent statutory authority established under the Tasmanian *Private Forests Act 1994*. We work to facilitate and expand the sustainable growth and development of the private forest resource in Tasmania. We do this through providing information to private forest growers, through research collaborations, advocacy, innovation and planning tools. One of our legislated functions is to advise, assist and facilitate the development of infrastructure that is of benefit to our private forest stakeholders and levy payers.

As an island state, the efficient and effective operation of our Tasmanian ports is essential to the vitality of Tasmania's economy and the well-being of all Tasmanians. More than 99% of the state's freight comes in and out of Tasmania by sea, so our ports are critical economic assets.

The forestry industry is particularly dependent on the Hobart and Burnie ports as key infrastructure in its export supply chain. Last financial year, the industry exported 1.8 million tonnes of forest products (logs, veneer, woodchips, timber & paper products) through these two ports. However, our stakeholders are now reporting bottlenecks, for example the inability of the Port of Burnie to accommodate the larger Panamax vessels and the aging nature of the wharf assets at Hobart Port are constraining their capacity.

The ports future as efficient and effective working ports is essential to the Tasmanian forestry industry's [Strategic Growth Plan](#) and to meet its stated objective of doubling the industry value add to \$1.2 billion by 2036.

Both the Hobart and Burnie port proposals are in the early stage proposal (Stage 1) on the Infrastructure Priority List. I urge the Australian Government and Infrastructure Australia to expedite these proposals. Having efficient and effective working ports not only benefits the industries using them but adds to the cultural and economic fabric of our State as a whole.

If you or your staff have any queries or need further expansion on the points raised above, please contact me on 03 6165 4070.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Penny Wells.

Penny Wells
CEO Private Forests Tasmania