

Dear Reader.

In 2009 I Travelled across Bass Strait with my Bus on the TT line Ferry.

The following is my story. It is a tale of woe, frustration, and it is my view and the view of many others that the service provided is a joke.

I have travelled many times over Bass Strait with my car but in July 2009 my plan was to travel from Melbourne to Devonport with my bus.

I am a bus enthusiast and had bought a 1978 Mercedes-Benz citybus in Sydney and my plan was to register it on special interest plates which I did. The bus is a former Sydney buses vehicle of 10.6m in length and I drove it from Sydney down the hume to Melbourne. In the months leading up to this trip I had enquired with the TT line as to the cost of travelling to Devonport and was shocked to hear that it would cost me \$1860 for the one way trip..not including a cabin.

The TT line told me that the cost was due to the bus not being included in the shipping subsidy, and was then counted as freight. The bus was unregistered and even though was carrying me and my father we were not counted as passengers and this was another reason we missed the subsidy.

To cut a long story short, after many phone calls and arguments with TT line I paid this outrageous amount of money and travelled to Devonport. The cost including a cabin was over \$2100 to travel a few hundred km.

In the next few months I wrote to many politicians, some of which bothered to write back. I focused on Andrew Wilkie who over 18 month forgot about me, then tried a bit and now will not even answer my letters or emails. 6 months ago I contacted Eric Abetz, had a 1 hour meeting and 2 weeks later had a women from the department of infrastructure and transport

call me who had been looking into my matter with the TT line.

In January this year I called the TT line to find out that the cost of shipping another bus I bought in Sydney from Melbourne to Sydney was now \$2648 not including a cabin. The women from the Department of infrastructure was fantastic bus is limited as to what she can do and I strongly advise you to interview her on my matter as she knows the ins and outs far better than me.

Needless to say I can get a much reduced cost to travel on the TT line but the hoops I must jump through are many. Not to mention the fact that I are among many people who wish to travel across Bass Strait and the other people have not been helped as much as I have. Obviously there is a lot more to this story and I would love to be interviewed by the people conducting this enquiry if they visit Hobart or want me to travel to Canberra. Please feel free to contact me on this matter as the Bass Strait issue has been a thorn in my side for many years. I am restoring the bus I have in Hobart and plan to travel the the historic vehicle shows in Sydney to show my bus with the many others. But I cant because since 1992 the Federal Governments have not done what they promised and treated Bass Strait as a National Hwy and denied Tasmanians the right to visit the mainland for the same amount of money it would cost to drive the same distance.

I could give you many accounts of the cost of Bass Strait travel, but this is the best. A few months ago there was a mobile crane expo in Hobart. I talked to a rep from a crane manufacturer in front of a huge 50 tonne crane. I asked about the cost of bass strait travel. He told me that it was more expensive to ship the crane from Melbourne to Tasmania than it was to ship the crane from Germany to Australia...

Thanks