

Following a trip to Tasmania to visit our daughter, husband and our four grandchildren, we were amazed how expensive it is to travel to one of Australia's states. It has been for a long time that Tasmania has been some sort of a joke ie being left off maps, the two heads jokes and Tasmania being treated like a poor relation, it is easier to ignore than to do something about it.

Following this my husband and I organised a petition to make Tasmania the responsibility of the Federal Government, not the Victorian or Tasmanian Governments due to lack of funds particularly in the case of Tasmania. With the help of many interested Tasmanians we collected **over 700** signatures, which we believe was put to Parliament, by the then Canberra Senator Gary Humphries, but to date I have not had any notification of the result of this document.(I do have a copy of this document if it needs to be seen).I have people ringing me from Tasmania often asking what is happening, all I can say is "Nothing".!!!

I wrote to **all senators** from Tasmania and only received **one reply** who was Senator Milne. I might add we do not yet vote Green but perhaps we should.

I refer you to The Mercury 16 February 2013 an article referring to National Sea Highway. Peter Brohier has been working on this problem for near 20 years. He is not a politician but an interested ex Tasmanian.

I was fortunate to be invited to a meeting earlier this year at the Department of Environment and transport in Canberra where there were interested parties eg Farmers (trying to export their products) Bus line owners (trying to help the Tourism industry) The mayor of Devonport who is a mayor who is trying to help Tasmanians and the CEO of CMCA which is a motorhome club and is very aware of the costs associated with travelling to Tasmania. I produced our petition showing the over 700 signatures who believe as we do.

Tasmania is a state of Australia with no means of connection to other states, other than sea and air, Let us for a moment think of Perth with no road to the East. What would be the result? What of Adelaide with no connection to other states and the same for all our Capitals. What a disaster!! The same disaster is happening to the youth of Tasmania, employment is not fruitful, trade is stifled.

Our family are teaching in Tasmania and their four children wish to live and work in that state, One now has left college and will be entering University in 2015.(She has decided to work in2014 to help towards Uni fees etc). The second child is now 16 and looking towards an apprenticeship. We want Tasmania to be fruitful and available to all Australians.

Our Petition stated that most visitors to Tasmania just want to get there, not to have a cruiseline with entertainment, movies, bars, restaurants. We know more people would travel more often if the cost was not prohibitive.

Could the Commission please ask the Tasmanian Politicians to do something as it seems that it has fallen on people like Peter Brohier, and myself (I am over 71 years of age), to do something. We are not funded by anyone but we are interested in fairness as Tasmania is a little state but good things come in small parcels.

We had a family reunion over Christmas this year and the cost of our family coming from Tassie was \$782 for one on the TT Line with a government rebate of \$408.ie.\$1190.. On the return journey my daughter and children will pay \$480 from Melbourne to Launceston by air, which is a **bit** more expensive than driving for that distance, but this was a "very good fare"!! Coming to the mainland they went via Sydney.

The cost of travel not taking car costs into account was:

\$782 for TT line

\$800 from Launceston to Sydney

480 from Melbourne to Launceston

\$2062

We are a close family who want to be near to our grandchildren and of course their parents, what is the incentive for other families to travel to Tasmania? Our friends now travel to Europe and Americas instead of Tasmania. What a sad case!!

The cost of travelling to Tasmania is much more than travelling to China or Europe. We travelled to Tasmania last year and it cost \$1800 for my husband and myself in a caravan, and we travelled to China to visit our daughter in Beijing and it cost \$749 each = \$1498.

We would be very happy to discuss this further.

Thank you for the opportunity.

Trish and John Tarlinton