

MEDIA RELEASE

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TASMANIAN INNOVATION KEY TO RAIL FREIGHT EFFICIENCY

A local innovation, manufactured at Triabunna, is helping TasRail to grow its container freight volumes and improve the overall efficiency of the Tasmanian Freight System.

The custom designed 'LogTainer' is the innovation of Elphinstone Engineering in collaboration with TasRail.

TasRail Chief Executive Officer, Damien White said the LogTainers had solved a vexing efficiency problem previously associated with rail transport of whole logs. 'Conventional log wagons are incompatible with other forms of rail freight, meaning that they are empty in one direction of each log train service', Mr White said.

'The Logtainer is a unique cradle that sits on top of an intermodal rail wagon, enabling the same wagon to be used for hauling logs and shipping containers. This enables TasRail to fully utilise the backload train journey to carry more freight, thereby increasing asset utilisation and the overall efficiency of train services', he said. 'The LogTainers also offer superior loading and unloading efficiencies and improved safety outcomes'.

TasRail purchased 40 of the LogTainer Units from Elphinstone, underwritten by a \$1 million grant from the Australian Government. TasRail's order provided the base volume necessary to fund investment in the equipment and resources required to establish local manufacturing facilities at Triabunna.

TasRail currently rails in the order of 90,000 tonnes of whole logs each year but Mr White revealed that the LogTainers were already proving to be an asset in the Company's efforts to attract increased log volumes on rail. 'TasRail recently operated a number of trial services hauling south bound logs for a new customer', Mr White said. 'While it is early days yet, TasRail is hopeful that it can capture a greater share of the available freight task'.

Mr White believes the LogTainers are a great story for Tasmania.

'They are a great example of what can be achieved through collaboration', he said. 'The outcome is a safe transport solution that benefits business and industry through lower prices and increased efficiencies; the community benefits through safer roads and avoided road accident and pollution costs; and the Triabunna region benefits from expanded manufacturing facilities with potential to generate further employment as Elphinstone expand their product offering to the transport sector'.

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For more information:

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About TasRail

TasRail is a State-owned Company, established on 1 December 2009 by an Act of the Tasmanian Parliament. The principal objectives of the business are set out in the Rail Company Act 2009 and require the Company to operate a rail business in Tasmania, effectively and efficiently and to operate its activities in accordance with sound commercial practice. With a workforce of around 240 men and women, Tasmania's current freight task is approximately 2.6 million tonnes per year – generating annual revenue in the order of \$37 million. TasRail conservatively estimates that the freight it transports by rail each year effectively removes the equivalent of 200,000 B-Double truck movements from the State's road network.

On 10 February 2016, Tasmania marked the 145th anniversary of railway operations in Tasmania.

