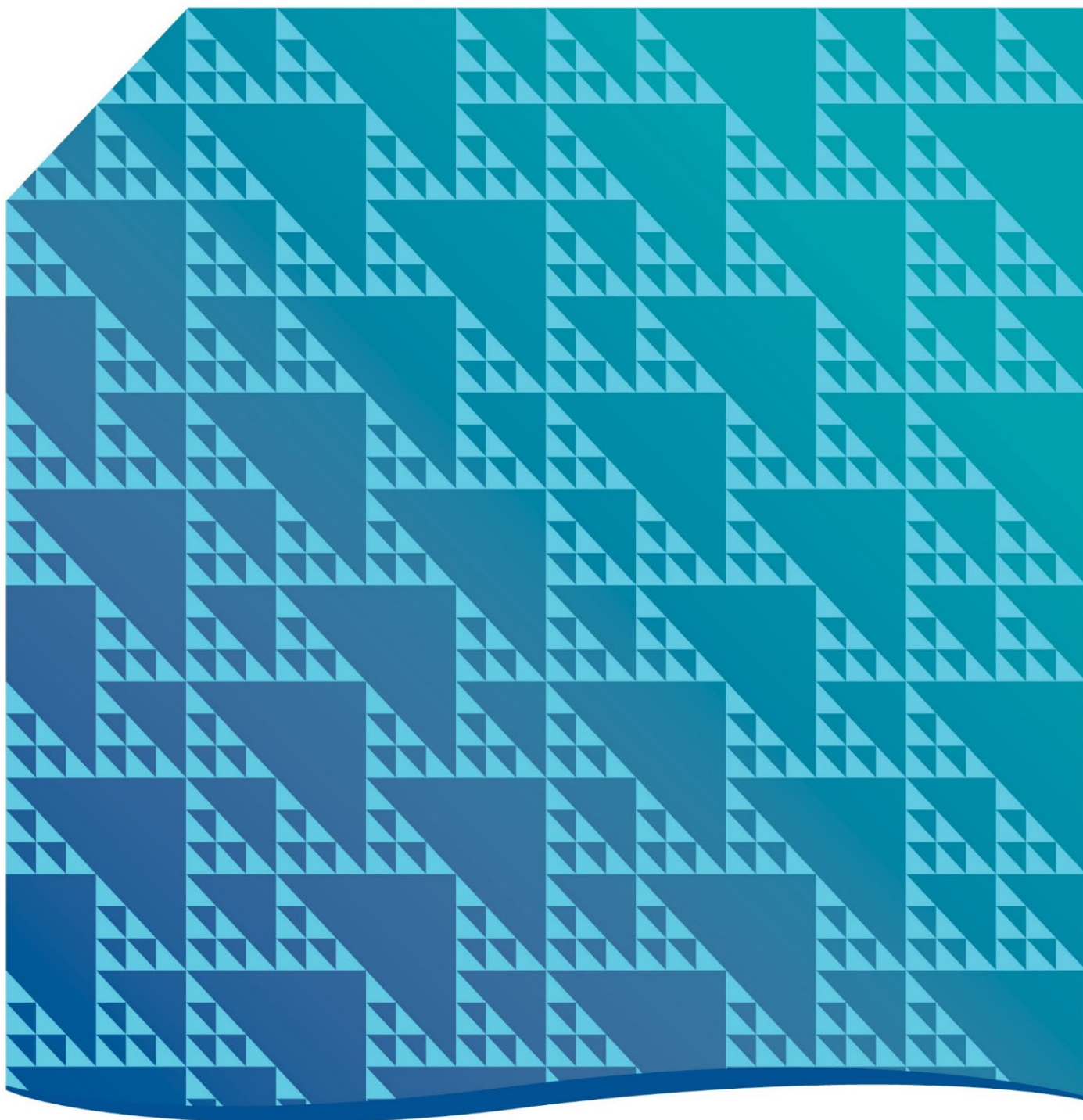


Prefeasibility assessment for the relocation of the Northern Tasmania freight intermodal facility



In 2021 a feasibility study was undertaken for a proposed eastern bypass of the city of Launceston. The study found a bypass would not deliver significant improvements to traffic congestion, economic development, and liveability. However, the study's report noted, based on feedback from stakeholders, that the current freight handling facility located close to the centre of Launceston conflicts with the long-term transport strategies of the State Government and the City of Launceston.

This report summarises the findings of the subsequent prefeasibility assessment for the relocation of the existing intermodal freight handling facility from the centre of Launceston to a new location close to existing road and rail freight linkages in Northern Tasmania.

The existing intermodal facility is located at 35-51 Dowling Street, Launceston. The facility is owned by Eagle Prop Co Pty Led Allegro Funds and operated by Team Global Express. Most of the trucks accessing the existing intermodal facility use the central Launceston roads of Cimitiere Street, Racecourse Crescent, and Dowling Street.



Figure 1 - Location of the existing intermodal facility

An Investment Logic Mapping (ILM) workshop was held with representatives from key stakeholders. After obtaining further feedback from stakeholders after the ILM, the agreed problems the relocation of the existing intermodal facility could potentially solve are:

- freight movement through Launceston city centre causes noise and emissions and impacts liveability of the CBD
- the existing (Team Global Express) site is size constrained, subject to curfew and located in a flood zone, limiting its productivity and resilience

- the proximity to residential areas of the existing site places a constraint on operating hours and opportunities for expansion
- the TRANSlink hub is rapidly filling, impacting future availability of space for an intermodal facility.

The proposed relocation of the intermodal facility would need to deliver the following benefits:

- improved urban amenity
- improved environmental outcomes
- improved freight efficiency
- agglomeration benefits of an industrial business hub.

The focus of this prefeasibility study was to assess the effect on heavy vehicle traffic in central Launceston from relocation of the existing intermodal facility from its current location. The study identified:

- the average number of heavy vehicles on Cimitiere Street are approximately 500 per day, with an hourly peak of around 42
- modelling showed:
 - the relocation of the intermodal would result in a 29% reduction in heavy vehicle traffic on Cimitiere Street
 - there is a marginal reduction, 3% or less, in heavy vehicle traffic on Bathurst Steet, Wellington Street, and Invermay Road
 - there is an 6% increase in heavy vehicle traffic on the Midland Highway
 - there is a marginal increase, less than 1%, in heavy vehicle traffic on the East Tamar Highway.
- based on the crash history, it can be concluded that heavy vehicles do not represent a higher safety risk than any other road user on Cimitiere Street and Racecourse Crescent.

This prefeasibility study has identified there is significant interest from the key stakeholders to progress to more extensive feasibility studies. These feasibility studies will involve:

- Team Global Express's business assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of relocating the intermodal facility
- City of Launceston further developing and implementing its strategies to deliver its goal of making Launceston Australia's most liveable regional city
- Northern Midland Council and Launceston Airport further developing their plans to expand their freight handling facilities as potential sites for a new intermodal facility
- the assessment of funding models for the design, construction, and operation of a new intermodal facility.



Department of State Growth

Parliament Square

4 Salamanca Place

Hobart TAS 7000 Australia

Phone: 1800 030 688

Email: RoadsTas@stategrowth.tas.gov.au

Web: www.transport.tas.gov.au

