

Media Release

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LGAT calls for a fair share of heavy vehicle road funding

Today the local government sector reaffirmed its call for the State Government to provide a fair share of the heavy vehicle road tax distribution.

President of the Local Government Association of Tasmania Mayor Christina Holmdahl noted that the sector has received the same amount of \$1.5 million for 25 years to manage the impacts that heavy vehicles have on local roads. At the same time the state's heavy vehicle tax revenue has increased around 230 per cent, all the while the usage of local roads has steadily increased by around 4 per cent per year.

"Councils play a critical role in supporting the freight needs of Tasmania. It is unfair to communities and to those that pay the tax, the freight industry, that the State isn't providing a fair share" Mayor Holmdahl said.

"The end result is that councils either can't maintain roads and the freight industry and economy suffers, or ratepayers must pay for this, taking away from other vital community services" Mayor Holmdahl added.

The State Government collects the heavy vehicle motor tax through registration charges on heavy vehicles with the stated purpose that this is "to recover the costs of road wear and tear". Heavy vehicles have a big impact on local roads, as part of the first and last kilometre of their journeys, with an articulated truck equivalent to the load stress of around 6,000 passenger cars.

"The State Government has had 25 years to provide a fair share and the Local Government Association of Tasmania will be lobbying strongly for change" Mayor Holmdahl said.

Ends.

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