

7 February 2025

# Expressions of Interest

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## Port of Hobart Refuelling Solution



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# 1. Project – Refuelling Solution

## 1.1. The Opportunity

The Tasmanian Government is inviting suitably experienced and resourced organisations to register their interest in relation to the delivery of a refuelling solution for the Port of Hobart. The refuelling solution is expected to provide agile refuelling capability for the RSV Nuyina, Australia’s state-of-the-art icebreaker, and other visiting vessels to the Port of Hobart.

This Expression of Interest (**EOI**) process will be administered by the Department of State Growth (**State Growth**) and is the first step to gauge market interest and gain a high-level understanding of available refuelling solutions and industry capability.

Whilst the Tasmanian Government is not seeking comprehensive proposals at this stage; it is requesting that organisations (**Respondents**) provide preliminary information about their refuelling proposal, capability to deliver and relevant experience (refer Item 3.2 of this EOI) (**EOI Response** or **EOI Responses**). The Tasmanian Government recognises the variety of refuelling solutions used in ports worldwide (fuel barges, pipeline bunkering, ship-to-ship transfer), and welcomes input from organisations on how these solutions could be implemented in the context of the Port of Hobart.

Following the EOI process, and subject to market demand, the Tasmanian Government is intending to release a Request for Proposal (**RFP**) process seeking comprehensive submissions on potential refuelling solutions.

## 2. Project Background and Drivers

### 2.1 Overview

Consideration of the need for a refuelling solution to service the maritime industry in Hobart has again come into focus with the recent announcement by the Commonwealth Government to support the redevelopment of Macquarie Wharf 6. The agreement between the Commonwealth and Tasmanian governments secures Hobart as the home port of the RSV Nuyina and reinforces the shared commitment by both governments to maintaining Tasmania’s status as Australia’s Antarctic Gateway.

The Tasmanian Government has previously researched alternate refuelling solutions for the Port of Hobart, with anecdotal evidence suggesting that it has the potential to attract new users, optimise existing port efficiencies and bring with it broader economic and social benefits. This view is further supported by the increase in activity associated with Antarctic and Southern Ocean research and other prospective opportunities linked to tourism and defence.

The Tasmanian Government considers a refuelling solution has the potential to:

- Improve refuelling capability for the Port of Hobart.
- Provide an active refuelling solution for the RSV Nuyina and other visiting vessels.
- Increase port visitation leading to a positive social and economic benefit.
- Increase operational efficiencies for port users more broadly.
- Limit the risk of existing users looking elsewhere for port services.
- Reduce transit risk for the Tasman Bridge.
- Reinforce the operational capacity of the Port to support Hobart as the preeminent gateway to the Antarctic.

## 2.2 Redevelopment of Macquarie Wharf 6

In October 2024, the Commonwealth Government announced that it had agreed to commit \$188 million to the redevelopment of Macquarie Wharf 6 to provide fit-for-purpose wharf infrastructure for the RSV Nuyina when berthed in Hobart.

The agreement includes a provision that Tasmania provides a refuelling solution for the Port of Hobart to service the RSV Nuyina whilst in port. The agreement also requires Tasmania to:

- Project manage the redevelopment of Macquarie Wharf 6 with 30 years of priority access granted to the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD).
- Accept responsibility for lifecycle and maintenance costs for Macquarie Wharf 6.
- Provide shore power for the RSV Nuyina.
- Work with the AAD on the development of shoreside infrastructure.

## 2.3 The Antarctic Sector and the RSV Nuyina

### The Tasmanian Antarctic Sector

Tasmania has a proud heritage of supporting Antarctic and Southern Ocean endeavour with explorers and scientists using the Port of Hobart as a base for expeditions since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Today, Tasmania possesses a unique aggregation of characteristics in support of the Antarctic sector and is recognised around the world as an exciting and vibrant centre of international Antarctic science, logistics, operational support and diplomacy.

Tasmania is home to a substantial number of significant Antarctic and Southern Ocean science and research organisations, which form the heart of the sector and are at the core of its success.

For Tasmania, the Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector employs nearly 1,000 people and contributes more than \$183 million each year to the economy.

### The RSV Nuyina

The RSV Nuyina serves as the centrepiece of Australia's Antarctic program, supporting scientific research and resupply missions to Australian stations in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

The RSV Nuyina is a critical asset for Australia's Antarctic program, ensuring the continued support of scientific research in one of the world's most challenging environments. Its dual role as a research and supply vessel makes it one of the most advanced ships of its kind globally.

Nuyina, pronounced *noy-ye-nah*, means 'southern lights' in palawa kani, the language of Tasmanian Aborigines. Commissioned in 2021, the RSV Nuyina is approximately 160 meters in length and capable of accommodating up to 117 personnel, including crew and researchers.

At 24,000 tonnes, the RSV Nuyina has a cruising speed of 12 knots and maximum speed of 16 knots. The vessel has a range of up to 16,000 nautical miles and is capable of breaking ice up to almost 1.7 meters thick.

The RSV Nuyina has fuel capacity of 1.9 million litres and uses Marine Grade Oil (MGO), Special Antarctic Blend (SAB) and Aviation Fuel (JP5). The icebreaker transports fuel to Australia's Antarctic research stations (Davis, Casey, Mawson and Macquarie Island). The RSV Nuyina has a maximum receiving rate of up to 200 kl/hour.

Currently, the RSV Nuyina is unable to refuel at Selfs Point due to its inability to pass under the Tasman Bridge. Establishing an alternative refuelling solution could not only accommodate the vessel but also potentially reduce refuelling time, allow simultaneous cargo and supply loading, and improve overall port efficiency.

## 2.4 The Port of Hobart

As Australia's second oldest port, the Port of Hobart is a popular destination for locals and visitors alike. Today, it serves as a functioning port alongside a significant community asset and tourism drawcard.

The waterfront area is famous for hosting major community events, including the Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, the Australian Wooden Boat Festival, and the Taste of Summer. These events attract large crowds and are key highlights in Hobart's annual calendar, celebrating maritime traditions, local cuisine, and the city's vibrant cultural scene.

TasPorts is responsible for the management of ten ports throughout Tasmania, including the Port of Hobart. TasPorts provide a diverse range of port and marine operations and services around Tasmania.

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of cruise ships visiting the Port of Hobart, with passengers exploring beyond the city and into Tasmania's regional areas, further enhancing the state's tourism sector.

Antarctic tourism is also growing, with the Port of Hobart offering a unique and exciting way for travellers to begin their exploration of the frozen continent. Added to this, increasing visits from research vessels and other defence vessels are increasing the demand for more agile refuelling solutions within the Port of Hobart.

## 2.5 Current Fuel Demand and Gaps

Currently, marine fuel in Hobart is supplied either by road tankers over the berth or by pipeline at Selfs Point.

Fuel demand for all types of fuel in the Port of Hobart has been estimated in the region of 17,000-21,000 kl per annum. Of this, the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) consumes approximately 9,000 kl of Marine Gas Oil (MGO) and 3,000 kl of Special Antarctic Blend (SAB) annually.

The major constraint to bunkering in Hobart is the method of transfer of fuel. Due to length restrictions for vessels to pass under the Tasman Bridge, a number of vessels are unable to refuel via pipeline at Selfs Point. As a result, refuelling of larger vessels within the Port of Hobart is only possible via road tanker, which is both inefficient and time-consuming. Road tankers are often unavailable on weekends and have a significantly lower flow rate compared to pipeline refuelling at Selfs Point.

The ability for vessels to fuel at anchor is a major gap at present. Hobart has limited berth space within the Port of Hobart and at Selfs Point. This is despite Hobart having the second-largest natural harbour in the world with good, safe and sheltered anchorages. The ability to fuel at anchor could attract more vessel visitation to Hobart.

# 3. EOI Process

## 3.1. Purpose

The purpose of this EOI is for Respondents to nominate their interest in relation to the delivery of a refuelling solution for the Port of Hobart. The EOI will not be used as a means of shortlisting.

Following the closure of the EOI, State Growth will undertake an internal assessment of the submissions to determine whether there is sufficient market interest to proceed to the RFP process.

Should State Growth proceed to the RFP process – prior to its release and subject to procurement approvals – an industry briefing will be conducted to allow interested participants the opportunity to engage with State Growth to discuss the procurement structure and proposed process.

Following this, a fully contemplated RFP process will commence in accordance with Tasmanian Government procurement processes (including the relevant Treasurer’s Instructions and International Procurement Obligations).

### 3.2. Information to be Provided in EOI Response

All Respondents should address the details requested below in their responses, noting that the information requested at this stage is at a high-level:

<b>Preliminary</b>	
Respondent Information	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Name (full details)</li> <li>- Australian Business Number (ABN) and/or Australian Company Number (ACN) (as applicable)</li> <li>- Registered Office Address (as applicable)</li> <li>- Postal Address</li> <li>- Website</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brief overview of your organisation (or partnership)</li> </ul>
<b>Proposed Solution</b>	
Outline of the proposed refuelling solution	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High-level description of your proposed solution or concept</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expected benefits and alignment with the Tasmanian Government objective of delivering a refuelling solution for the Port of Hobart</li> </ul>
<b>Experience, Capacity and Capability</b>	
Overview of relevant experience, capacity and capability to lead the delivery and operation of a refuelling solution	
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brief overview of relevant industry experience and past delivery of similar projects</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resources, infrastructure, and technology available to support your proposal</li> </ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High-level cost estimates (if applicable)</li> </ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Indicative project timeframe for delivery</li> </ul>
<b>Regulatory and Economic Benefit</b>	
Overview of compliance, regulations and economic and social benefit	
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brief overview of how your proposed refuelling solution would comply with legal, regulatory, and safety requirements</li> </ul>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brief outline of the contribution to local employment and economic development</li> </ul>

### 3.3. Timetable

The table below highlights the timetable for this EOI.

Consideration	Date
EOI Commencement	Friday 7 February 2025 (2:00pm)
EOI Responses Due (Closing Time)	Thursday 6 March 2025 (2:00pm)

State Growth reserves the right to extend the above Closing Time by written notice to all potential Respondents and accept EOI Responses submitted after this Closing Time at its sole discretion.

### 3.4. Lodgement of EOI

#### Lodgement via Tenders Website (the Electronic Tender System):

An EOI response may be lodged electronically using the Tasmanian Government's Tenders website: [www.tenders.tas.gov.au](http://www.tenders.tas.gov.au).

- (a) A Respondent lodging an EOI using the Electronic Tender System must lodge the EOI using a format, and the naming conventions set out in the following table. Failure to comply with the format or the naming conventions may result in the EOI not uploading successfully.

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<b>Format requirements:</b>	Rich Text Format (RTF); Adobe Acrobat - Portable Document Format (PDF); Microsoft Word (DOC); Microsoft Excel (XLS); or Image Files (JPG, GIFF, TIFF).
<b>Naming conventions:</b>	File names must be in English. File names that contain a space must have an underscore in the space's place (" _ "). File names must contain the Unique Reference ID (shown on page 1 of this RFT), the name of the document and the Tenderer's name.

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- (b) A single submission of combined file sizes for an EOI lodged using the Electronic Tender System must not exceed 500 megabytes (500Mb), with each individual file to be less than one hundred megabytes (100Mb). If an EOI exceeds the specified file size limits, the Tenderer must:
- (i) lodge the EOI in separate parts not exceeding the file size limit, with each part to be clearly identified as part of the Tender;
  - (ii) lodge the EOI as a compressed (zip) file not exceeding the file size limit; or
  - (iii) lodge the EOI in another way permitted by this EOI document.
- (c) The Electronic Tender System will not allow a EOI to be lodged after the Closing Time. Lodging a Tender using the Electronic Tender System must, therefore, be completed by the Closing Time.
- (d) If a potential Respondent has problems using the Electronic Tender System, the respondent must notify the Contact Officer of this before the Closing Time.
- (e) A respondent using, or attempting to use, the Electronic Tender System to lodge an EOI:
- (i) acknowledges that:

- (A) State Growth does not warrant that unauthorised access to information and data transmitted via the internet will not occur; and
- (B) if the Electronic Tender System is affected by System Failure, it may not be possible to successfully lodge a Tender using the Electronic Tender System; and
- (ii) releases State Growth, and its personnel from, and indemnifies each of them against, all claims in connection with:
  - (A) any unauthorised access to information, or data, transmitted via the internet as part of the EOI; or
  - (B) any System Failure that prevents or delays the respondent from lodging an EOI using the Electronic Tender System.
- (f) Lodgement (or the attempted lodgement) of an EOI, using the Electronic Tender System, is at the Respondent's sole risk.
- (g) An EOI respondent lodging an EOI using the Electronic Tender System warrants that it has taken reasonable steps to ensure that the EOI is free from Harmful Code. State Growth, at its discretion, may reject an EOI found to contain Harmful Code.

Lodgement via Email:

An EOI Response may be lodged via email to: [strategic.projects@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:strategic.projects@stategrowth.tas.gov.au) (the Specified Email Address):

- (a) An EOI lodged by email to the Specified Email Address must be received in the 'inbox' for the Specified Email Address by the Closing Time. The time at which an EOI is received in the 'inbox' for the Specified Email Address will be ascertained from the 'inbox'.
- (b) If a potential Respondent has problems using the Specified Email Address, the Tenderer must notify the Contact Officer of this before the Closing Time.
- (c) An EOI Respondent lodging, or attempting to lodge, an EOI respondent by sending it by email to the Specified Email Address:
  - (i) acknowledges that:
    - (A) State Growth does not warrant that unauthorised access to information and data transmitted via email will not occur; and
    - (B) if the Specified Email Address is affected by system failure, it may not be possible to successfully lodge an EOI by email to that address; and
  - (ii) releases State Growth, and its personnel from, and indemnifies each of them against, all claims in connection with:
    - (A) any unauthorised access to information, or data, transmitted via email as part of an EOI response; or
    - (B) any system failure that prevents or delays the EOI respondent from lodging an EOI by email to the Specified Email Address.
- (d) Lodgement (or the attempted lodgement) of an EOI, using the Specified Email Address, is at the EOI Respondent's sole risk.
- (e) An EOI Respondent lodging an EOI using the Specified Email Address warrants that it has taken reasonable steps to ensure that the EOI is free from Harmful Code. State Growth, at its discretion, may reject an EOI found to contain Harmful Code.



**Harmful Code** includes:

- (a) any virus, denial of service, disabling or malicious device or code, 'worm', 'trojan', 'time bomb', or other harmful or destructive code, but does not include any 'software lock' or other technical mechanism that is included to manage the proper use of any software; and
- (b) any code that allows any person to remotely monitor any activity of, or collect any data about, the Principal or any person dealing with the Principal.

## 4. Enquiries

The Department of State Growth, on behalf of the Tasmanian Government, is leading the administration of the EOI process.

All contact and enquiries in relation to this EOI process are to be directed to the Department of State Growth as follows:

**Contact Officer:** Sam Thiessen, Project Director (Strategic Projects)

**Email:** [strategic.projects@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:strategic.projects@stategrowth.tas.gov.au)

**Telephone:** (03) 6166 3462

# 5. Appendix A – General Terms and Conditions

## Confidentiality and Privacy

- a) This EOI document remains the property of the Crown in Right of Tasmania (the **Crown**) and may be used only to prepare a response.
- b) Upon submission, EOI Responses become the property of the Crown.
- c) Despite any copyright or other intellectual property right that subsists in an EOI Response, each EOI Respondent licenses the Crown to reproduce the whole or any part of its Response for the purposes of evaluation.

## Publicity

Unless otherwise required by law, Respondents shall not make or issue any publicity statements or disclosures in relation to their involvement with this EOI unless the written consent of the Crown has first been obtained.

## Costs to be Borne by Respondents

EOI Respondents must bear the whole of their costs of and incidental to this EOI.

The Crown will not be responsible for, or pay or reimburse, any costs, expense or loss which may be incurred by any Respondent in respect of this EOI or consideration of the Port of Hobart Refuelling Solution generally, including in respect of:

- a) any consideration, preparation and lodgement of an EOI Response;
- b) any resources used by a Respondent in the preparation of an EOI Response;
- c) taking into account any variation to or discontinuance of the EOI Response and its processes (including as a result of the exercise of any Crown reservation under this Appendix A); and
- d) the providing of additional information or clarification and carrying out of any negotiations (including during any evaluation and negotiation processes in respect of an EOI Response);

## Relationship matters

- a) By lodging an EOI Response and in consideration of the Crown starting to evaluate the EOI Response, the Respondent agrees to be bound by this EOI document and in particular the terms of this Appendix A.
- b) Subject to subclause (a) above, no contractual relationship or other obligation arises as part of this EOI process, between the Crown and a Respondent.

## Disclaimer

- a) This EOI and any information that accompanies it have been prepared to give potential Respondents background information in relation to the Project. This document does not, and does not purport to, comprehensively describe the scope of the Port of Hobart Refuelling Solution project.
- b) The Crown makes no warranty or representation and does not assume any duty of care to Respondents that the information in this Invitation for EOI or any other disclosed information is

accurate, adequate, suitable or complete, or that the information has been independently verified, and the Crown accepts no responsibility for interpretations placed on the information by Respondents.

- c) The Crown will not have any responsibility to inform any recipient of this document of any matter or information coming to their attention which may affect any other matter or information contained or referred to in this document.
- d) Recipients of this document acknowledge that they will make their own independent investigations of the information contained or referred to in this document and their own appraisal of the opportunity to participate in the Port of Hobart Refuelling Solution project..
- e) To the extent the Crown is not the author or source of any document provided to Respondents, it merely passes that document on to Respondents and does not adopt the content of it.
- f) This EOI and all statements and information made in relation to it reflects the Crown's current intention only. The information and intentions set out in this Invitation for EOI may change at any time without notice. The risk, responsibility and liability connected with responding to this EOI is solely that of each Respondent.

## Canvassing

Respondents must not contact any members, or employees or officers of the Crown (including their advisors) with a view to providing or obtaining information in respect of any part of the Port of Hobart Refuelling Solution project, the overall process, this EOI or their EOI Response, or attempt to support or enhance their EOI Response than as expressly permitted by this EOI.

## Collusion

Respondents including their officers, employees, agents and advisors must not engage in any collusive tendering, anti-competitive conduct or any other similar conduct with any other Respondent or any other person in relation to the preparation or lodgement of an EOI Response. Evidence of such conduct may lead to the rejection of the Responses of all Respondents involved.

## Conflict of Interest

A declaration must be made by EOI Respondents, and (if applicable) their respective officers, employees, agents and advisors and submitted with their EOI Response as to any conflict of interest or a potential or perceived conflict of interest during this EOI or in relation to their potential involvement in the Port of Hobart Refuelling Solution project. Respondents must undertake to inform the Crown of any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest that may arise after lodgement of an EOI Response.

## Return or Destruction of Information

The Crown reserves the right, in its absolute discretion, at any stage, to require that material and other information provided to EOI Respondents (and copies or reproductions of such information) be either destroyed by Respondents or returned to the Crown unless otherwise required by law. The Crown may require that EOI Respondents provide evidence (in a form satisfactory to the Crown) that any of its requirements in this respect have been fully met.

## The Crown May Rely on Information in EOI Responses

By submitting an EOI Response, the EOI Respondent:

- a) warrants to the Crown that the information contained in its EOI Response is accurate and complete as at the date on which it is submitted and not misleading (including by omission of information) and may be relied on by the Crown in determining whether or not to shortlist the EOI Respondent;
- b) undertakes to promptly advise the Crown if it becomes aware of any change in circumstances which causes the information contained in its EOI Response to become inaccurate or incomplete in a material respect;
- c) acknowledges that the Crown will rely on the above warranty and undertaking when reviewing their EOI Response;
- d) acknowledges that the Crown may suffer loss or damage if an EOI Respondent breaches any of the above warranties and undertakings.



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Phone: (03) 6166 3462

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