



9 February 2018

## Bass Island Line Update – edition 44

### Official handover

Bass Island Line (BIL) has officially taken ownership of the *John Duigan*, marking another milestone in bringing the new bigger vessel into service for the King Island community.

*John Duigan* is a new vessel and has been tailored to meet the King Island cargo task requirements for the shipping service between Victoria, the island and mainland Tasmania.

Compared with the current Investigator II, the new landing craft (LCT) vessel has:

- 83% increased deck space,
- 120% increase in weight capacity,
- 90% increase in container capacity
- 20% increase in running speed (from 10 knots to 12 knots).



*In port: new BIL vessel, John Duigan.*

Built by Malaysian company Vitawani Shipbuilding, the new vessel has a V-shaped hull and is longer, heavier and wider than its predecessor.

These features will substantially improve the vessel's sea-keeping characteristics for travel across in the Bass Strait.

“The new vessel will be an exciting addition to our fleet,” said BIL Business Manager, Tom McBroom.

“We are confident that the *John Duigan* will deliver a better and more reliable service for the King Island community.”

BIL intends *John Duigan* to sail southbound from Victoria once a week to King Island and then onto a northern Tasmanian port.

Both the ports and the schedule will be announced before the *John Duigan* comes into service.



*John Duigan has now commenced the 3-week voyage from Malaysia to Tasmania.*

### Freight to date

Since commencing operation on 7 April, 2017 BIL has moved 53,756 tonnes of freight into and off King Island. This equates to over 234 sailings in total.

In the past week, Livestock sails (118) have now surpassed the number General sailings (116).

In preparation for the coming season, there will be an increase in fertiliser containers for King Island loading.

This is a timely reminder to all customers to book and deliver freight early.

### The schedule

The next three sailings are as follows:

- Saturday 10 February: General sailing  
– Depart Devonport 1.30pm
- Sunday 11 February: General sailing  
– Depart Grassy 1:30pm
- Monday 12 January: Live Stock  
– Depart Stanley 11:00pm

---

### Communications contact:

Leigh Arnold  
0409 019 939