



Senator Stephen Parry
Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate
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MEDIA RELEASE

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TCCI chief wrong on Burnie port `risk`

COMMENTS by TCCI chief executive Robert Wallace suggesting a growth in freight handling at the Burnie port created a "high risk" were ill-founded, Tasmanian Liberal Senator Stephen Parry said today.

Senator Parry said commercial realities had dictated recent decisions that made Burnie the port of choice for Tasmanian industry.

"Mr Wallace referred to the risk of the Burnie to Western Junction rail link failing, but then debunked his own argument by citing the Tunnack failure as an example – Tunnack being in the Southern Midlands.

"It should come as no surprise that any major failure on the state's rail network will put more trucks on the road till the track is reopened.

"That would be the case regardless of which port was handling the bulk of Tasmania's freight task.

"Rather than silly scaremongering, I would have hoped the TCCI would add its voice to the chorus calling for TasPorts to make the proposed expansion of the Burnie port a higher priority.

"This would be more in accordance with the commercial decisions being made by the transport industry and the state's business community, which the TCCI represents."

Ends

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