

Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme Schedule 1A Application Form

Application to include or remove a good from Schedule 1A of the TFES Ministerial Directions

The Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme (TFES) aims to reduce part of the additional cost that Tasmanian businesses must bear to ship their goods across Bass Strait, due to the lack of road or rail transport alternatives. It is not an import or export subsidy and TFES assistance is provided only for the Bass Strait leg of the sea freight cost.

The TFES Ministerial Directions provides for a process under clause 8.4A for a person to apply to the Department to include an imported good to Schedule 1A of the Ministerial Directions (Schedule 1A), rending the imported good ineligible to receive TFES assistance.

Clause 8.4A also allows for a person to make an application to the Department to have an imported good removed from Schedule 1A. Removing an imported good from Schedule 1A will allow for applications for the imported good to be registered and a claim lodged, with assistance available to be paid if all eligibility criteria are met.

The Secretary of the Department, or a person authorised by them (the Delegate), must make a decision on the application within 90 days after receiving an application under clause 8.4A of the TFES Ministerial Directions, unless the application is referred to the Minister.

Please refer to the TFES Ministerial Directions, available at the link below, for a current list of ineligible imported goods under Schedule 1A.

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/maritime/tasmanian-transport-schemes/tasmanian/>

The TFES imported good component is the result of the Australian Government’s recognition that some Tasmanian businesses may have been disadvantaged by not being eligible to receive assistance to support part of their Bass Strait transport costs for imported goods they must use as inputs to their manufacturing, mining, agricultural, forestry or fishery activities.

To be eligible for assistance under the TFES imported good component, a claimant must show evidence there is no Australian equivalent that is suitable for use in their eligible business processes or activities, which is also available to their business, and in sufficient scale and quality for their business needs.

A person who applies to add or remove an imported good from Schedule 1A is responsible for providing comprehensive evidence to warrant a decision being made under clause 8.4A of the TFES Ministerial Directions, reflecting the seriousness of the impact such a decision can have on Tasmanian and Australian mainland businesses.

An application for the inclusion or removal of an imported good under Schedule 1A will not be considered unless there is clear evidence of such a need, particularly evidence of the **measurable impact** of either including or removing the imported good from Schedule 1A to claimants and Tasmanian and Australian mainland businesses.

An application **must** address the following questions. Supporting information that elaborates on the answers provided or strengthens the veracity of the claims made can be submitted along with the completed form, as attachments.

# Application Information

You must provide the following information in your application.

* Name of applicant (company, industry body or other organisation)
* Contact person for the application
* Imported Good being applied to be included or removed from Schedule 1A of the TFES Ministerial Directions
* Physical Address of the applicant
* Postal Address of the applicant
* Telephone/mobile contact of the applicant
* Email contact of the applicant

The Department may approach existing TFES claimants of the imported good for information to inform a decision on the inclusion or removal of an imported good from Schedule 1A of the TFES Ministerial Directions. While only the name of the imported good related to the application will be communicated by the Department to existing claimants, they may be given the opportunity to provide a response to the application, including providing advice on their use of the imported good and the impact inclusion or removal of the good from Schedule 1A would have on their business.

## Questions – Inclusion of an imported good in Schedule 1A

Please provide a response to each of these questions if you are applying to have an imported good included in Schedule 1A of the TFES Ministerial Directions (making the imported good ineligible for TFES assistance)

1. Provide a concise summary of the reasons for the application to include the imported good in Schedule 1A, making it ineligible for TFES assistance.
2. Describe and provide evidence on how a suitable Australian equivalent to the imported good exists that could be used by all Tasmanian businesses that may currently be using the imported good as an input.

In answering this question, you must also describe and provide evidence on how the supply of the Australian equivalent is at sufficient scale for all Tasmanian businesses, and the quality of the Australian equivalent is suitable for use by all Tasmanian businesses.

1. The aim of the TFES is to provide assistance for part of the additional cost of transporting eligible goods across Bass Strait. It is not a subsidy for the use of a certain good. Describe and provide evidence of the **measurable impact** of providing TFES assistance to reduce the cost of transporting the imported good across Bass Strait has had or will have on the use of the good by businesses in Tasmania.
2. Describe and provide evidence of the **measurable impact** of providing TFES assistance to reduce the cost of transporting the imported good across Bass Strait has impacted, or will likely impact, the capacity for Australian businesses producing domestic equivalents to fairly compete.
3. Describe and provide evidence on how making the imported good ineligible for TFES assistance will impact, both operationally and financially, Tasmanian businesses that may currently require the imported good for their business processes.
4. If suitable Australian equivalents to the imported good do not exist, describe how it is desirable for Australian equivalents to the imported good and its supply to be developed. Please provide evidence of the desirability to develop an Australian equivalent and its supply being shared by Tasmanian industry.
5. If it is desirable for Australian equivalents to the imported good and its supply to be developed, describe and provide evidence on how support to develop the domestic equivalent good and its supply is, will or can be provided and who will provide this support.
6. Please advise of any other matter/s considered relevant to the application to have the imported good included in Schedule 1A, rendering it ineligible for TFES assistance.

## Questions – Removal of an imported good from Schedule 1A

Please provide a response to each of these questions if you are applying to have an imported good removed from Schedule 1A of the TFES Ministerial Directions. Removing an imported good from Schedule 1A will allow for applications for the imported good to be registered and a claim lodged, with assistance available to be paid if all eligibility criteria are met.

1. Provide a concise summary of the reasons for the application to remove an imported good from Schedule 1A.
2. Describe and provide evidence on how there is no Australian equivalent to the ineligible imported good in Schedule 1A, which is of suitable quality and sufficient quantity to cover all manufacturing and other processes in Tasmania that may currently need the imported good as an input.
3. Describe and provide evidence of the **measurable impact** to Tasmanian businesses of *both*:

* the imported good remaining on Schedule 1A (meaning it will continue to be ineligible for assistance)
* the imported good being removed from Schedule 1A (meaning a TFES claim for assistance for the imported good may be paid, if all eligibility requirements are met)

1. Describe and provide evidence of the **measurable impact** to Australian businesses that produce an Australian equivalent to the imported good, if the imported good is removed from Schedule 1A.
2. Please advise of any other matter/s considered relevant to the application to have the imported good removed from Schedule 1A.

**Australian Privacy Principle 5 Notice**

**Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme**

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (the Department) is collecting personal information for the purposes of assessing an application, under clause 8.4A of the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme (TFES) Ministerial Directions, to add or remove an imported good from the list of ineligible imported goods in Schedule 1A of the TFES Ministerial Directions, in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988* and as authorised under the TFES Ministerial Directions.

The Department will use your personal information for assessing and deciding upon an application to add or remove an imported good in Schedule 1A of the TFES Ministerial Directionsand will store this information securely.

The Department may disclose information to Services Australia, the delivery agency for the TFES, for the purposes of gathering evidence in assessing and deciding upon the application. If you do not provide all information requested by the Department, the application will not be considered.

The Department’s [privacy policy](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/department/about/privacy-policy.aspx) contains information regarding complaint handling processes and how to access and/or seek correction of personal information held by the Department. The Department’s [Privacy Officer](mailto:privacy@infrastructure.gov.au) can be contacted on (02) 6274 6495