

SeaRoad to deliver greater capacity with new charter arrangement

SeaRoad Shipping will introduce a new charter vessel in March 2021 to provide increased capacity for freight across Bass Strait.

The \$80 million investment over three years will see *MV SEAROAD TAMAR* replaced with the *MV LIEKUT* until SeaRoad's new vessel is constructed.

Executive Chairman of SeaRoad, Chas Kelly, said the move reflected customer demand and would not only deliver more transport options for Tasmanian and mainland businesses, but also increase accessibility to Tasmania.

"We're taking big steps to ensure SeaRoad's future and the provision of ever-improving, reliable Bass Strait services for our clients. This will lead to greater opportunity for Tasmanian agriculture, aquaculture and manufacturing industries, ultimately attracting further investment in these sectors.

"*MV LIEKUT* will complement our other modern ship, *MV SEAROAD MERSEY II*, which is similar in size and speed, increasing SeaRoad's total lane metre capacity by almost 70%."

SeaRoad's senior management team assessed 24 vessels as part of the charter project, including the roll-on/roll-off *MV LIEKUT* in Poland in July this year. Ship builders Flensburger Schiffbau-Gesellschaft (FSG) completed the new vessel in March 2020, and the ship has not traded commercially since.

Ship owners, Siem, will complete modifications on *MV LIEKUT* in Poland prior to her delivery into Melbourne, including strengthening decks, installing barriers and drainage, and modifying the stern ramp to suit *MV LIEKUT*'s new home port of Devonport.

"We've had initial discussions with our employees, State Governments, ports and union representatives about this initiative, who have all been supportive and excited about what this will mean for Tasmanian freight. We can't wait to now share the news with our customers," Mr Kelly said.

"As our capacity grows, we expect to create new employment opportunities for businesses in Melbourne and throughout Tasmania."

Once *MV LIEKUT*'s charter period is complete, SeaRoad's new permanent vessel is scheduled to come online in the second half of 2023 at an estimated \$190 million of further investment.

MV LIEKUT will be Australian flagged and the inherited name comes from the local dialect of Lower German, meaning "straight ahead". The *MV SEAROAD TAMAR* will be retired.

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MV LIEKUT vs MV SEAROAD TAMAR Snapshot

Specifications	<i>LIEKUT</i>	<i>SEAROAD TAMAR</i>
Length overall	209.79 m	149.40 m
Length bp	197.74 m	135.00 m
Breadth, moulded	26.00 m	23.00 m
Depth, to main deck	8.60 m	6.70 m
Depth, to upper deck	17.00 m	14.70 m
Draught, scantling	6.40 m	6.60 m
Deadweight	11,100 t	9,958 t
Gross Tonnage	32,887	13,965
Freight decks	4	3
Total lane metres	4,076	1,406
Main engine power	2 x 9,600kW	2 x 4,960 kW
Service speed	21.3kts	16.5 knots
Bow thrusters	2 x 1,500kW	1 x 500 kW
Stern thrusters	None	None
Flag	Malta	Launceston

Capacity specifications – *MV LIEKUT*

Weather deck	85 trailers	suitable for livestock and dangerous goods
Upper deck	70 trailers	fully enclosed, suitable for diesel electric refrigerated trailers
Main deck	70 cassettes	fully enclosed for 280 TEUs
Lower deck	multiple cargo options	includes road trailers, motor vehicles and other mobile units