

CLARENCE RIVER FERRY FARES UNDER REVIEW

25 August 2014

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is calling for public submissions on how best to set fares for ferries servicing Iluka and Yamba.

Each year, IPART recommends the maximum fares that can be charged for regular private ferry services operated by Clarence River Ferries between Iluka and Yamba. The current maximum fare on this route is \$7.30.

IPART Chairman Dr Peter Boxall said the information paper released today for *Review of fares for Private Ferries and Stockton Ferry from 2015*, invites public comment about new proposals to determine fares based on the same approach used for other transport providers.

“On average some private ferry operators were not recovering their costs from fares,” Dr Boxall said.

“We made some changes last year, but this year we are proposing to determine fares based on the same model used for other transport providers, measuring the costs of providing the services in the most efficient way before setting fares.”

“We are seeking feedback from both the ferry operators and passengers who use these services on how to best set fares to address affordability, reliability and safety,” Dr Boxall said.

The review of ferry fares on the Clarence River is part of a broader review of fares for regular private ferry services across NSW and the Stockton ferry service in Newcastle.¹ Fares for Sydney Ferries are determined through a separate process.

Submissions to the information paper close on 20 September 2014. A draft report will be released in October for further comment, along with a public hearing before the final report is provided to Transport for NSW in December. The information paper is available on IPART’s website <<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au>>.

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¹ Private ferry services under review are Central Coast Ferries (Woy Woy to Empire Bay), Church Point Ferry Service (Scotland Island and western foreshore of Pittwater), Clarence River Ferries (Iluka to Yamba), Cronulla and National Park Ferry Service (Cronulla to Bundeena), Brooklyn Ferry Services (Brooklyn to Dangar Island), Matilda Cruises (Circular Quay to Darling Harbour, and Circular Quay to Lane Cove) and Palm Beach Ferries (Palm Beach to Mackerel Beach and the Basin and Palm Beach to Ettalong and Wagstaffe).