

# Media Release

8 October 2021

## Draft fares released for Central Coast Ferries

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is calling for public submissions on its draft fares for Central Coast Ferries operating between Woy Woy and Empire Bay. The current maximum fare on this route is \$8.30.

Under the draft decision, which would apply from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2025, Central Coast Ferries maximum fares would be:

- \$8.50 from January 2022
- \$8.70 from January 2023
- \$8.90 from January 2024, and
- \$9.20 from January 2025.

Tribunal member Ms Sandra Gamble said that IPART has made a draft decision to not accept Central Coast Ferries' proposed increase of 10% per annum, and instead increase fares in line with CPI. Central Coast Ferries also receives viability payments from the NSW Government.

"Our view is that passengers should pay a price that reflects a reasonable share of the efficient cost of providing the service while enabling private ferry operators to sustain their business over the long term.

"Central Coast Ferries' current maximum fare is below the efficient cost reflective fare, but there is a cheaper, public bus that services the route with similar frequency and journey time. Therefore, we have decided to increase fares in line with CPI", said Ms Gamble.

The review of ferry fares on the Central Coast is part of a broader review of fares for regular private ferry services across NSW.<sup>1</sup>

Feedback from passengers, the ferry operators and the local community is being sought until 5 November, with a public forum to be held on 18 October.

All stakeholder comments will be taken into consideration before making the final determination in December 2021.

The Draft Report is available on IPART's website <http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au>, where you can also register for the public forum.

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<sup>1</sup> Private ferry services under review are Brooklyn Ferry Services (Brooklyn to Dangar Island), 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), Captain Cook Cruises (Lane Cove to Circular Quay) and Palm Beach Ferries (Mackerel and the Basin run).

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