

Media Release

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Draft fares released for Clarence River Ferries

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is calling for public submissions on its draft fares for Clarence River Ferries servicing Iluka and Yamba. The current maximum fare on this route is \$9.50.

Under the draft decision, which would apply from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2025, maximum fares for Clarence River Ferries would increase in line with inflation at 2.5% each year. The maximum fares would therefore be:

- \$9.70 from January 2022
- \$10.00 from January 2023
- \$10.20 from January 2024, and
- \$10.50 from January 2025.

Tribunal member Ms Sandra Gamble said that IPART has assessed the Clarence River Ferries' efficient costs in making its draft decision on fares for scheduled passenger services. Clarence River Ferries also operates weekly scenic river and live music cruises and private charters and its charges for these services are not regulated.

"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.

"Clarence River Ferries' current maximum fare is below the level reflecting the estimated efficient cost of providing the ferry service, but we did not receive actual cost data from Clarence River Ferries. Therefore, we have decided to increase its maximum fares in line with CPI," said Ms Gamble.

The review of ferry fares on the Clarence River is part of a broader review of fares for regular private ferry services across NSW.¹

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.

¹ 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 Beach and the Basin run).

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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