

# Media Release

8 October 2021

## Draft fares released for Cronulla and National Park Ferry Service

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is calling for public submissions on its draft fares for Cronulla and National Park Ferry Service operating between Cronulla and Bundeena. The current maximum fare on this route is \$7.40.

Under the draft decision, which would apply from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2025, maximum fares for Cronulla and National Park Ferry Service would not change.

Tribunal member Ms Sandra Gamble said that IPART has assessed Cronulla Ferries' efficient costs and made a draft decision not to accept the operator's proposed increase of 5% per annum.

"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.

"Cronulla and National Park Ferry Service's proposed fares exceed the level reflecting the efficient cost of providing the ferry service," said Ms Gamble.

IPART also recommends incrementally removing the annual viability payment that the government currently pays Cronulla and National Park Ferry Service, in order to promote greater operating efficiency.

The review of ferry fares on the Port Hacking River 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).