

Media Release

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Draft fares released for Pittwater Ferry Services

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is calling for public submissions on its draft fares for ferries servicing Palm Beach, the Basin, Mackerel Beach, Church Point, Scotland Island, and the western foreshore of Pittwater.

Church Point Ferry Service provides ferry services between Church Point, Scotland Island and the western foreshore of Pittwater, and Palm Beach Ferries provides ferry services between Palm Beach and Mackerel Beach and the Basin. The current maximum fares on these routes are \$9.70 and \$8.70, respectively.

Under the draft decision, which would apply from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2025, fares for

- the Church Point Ferry Service would be:
 - \$9.90 from January 2022
 - \$10.20 from January 2023
 - \$10.40 from January 2024, and
 - \$10.70 from January 2025.
- the Palm Beach Ferries Mackerel route would be:
 - \$9.10 from January 2022
 - \$9.30 from January 2023
 - \$9.50 from January 2024, and
 - \$9.70 from January 2025.

Tribunal member Ms Sandra Gamble said that IPART has assessed each service's efficient costs and made a draft decision to increase Church Point Ferry Service fares in line with CPI (forecast at 2.5% per annum), and Palm Beach Ferries' fares by 2.8% per annum. Church Point Ferry Service also receives an annual viability payment 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.

"Both Church Point Ferry Service and Palm Beach Ferries' current costs reflect the efficient costs of providing each ferry service. In deciding the Palm Beach Ferries fares we have also considered the costs of running their Palm Beach to Ettalong route," said Ms Gamble.

The review of ferry fares on Pittwater 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 communities 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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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 and the Basin run).