

## 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 fare determination for ferry services operated by Cronulla and National Park Ferry Service between Cronulla and Bundeena. The current maximum fare on this route is \$6.40.

Under the draft decision, which would apply from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2021, fares for Cronulla and National Park Ferry Service would not change.

IPART Chair Dr Peter Boxall said that IPART has assessed Cronulla and National Park Ferry Service's fare proposal and made a draft decision not to accept it.

"Our view is that passengers should pay the prices that reflect the efficient cost of providing the services while enabling private ferry operators to sustain their business over the long term," Dr Boxall said.

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

The maximum fares for the ferry service between Cronulla and Bundeena have not changed since January 2014. IPART's draft decision means that the fares would not change for the additional four years.

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> IPART determines fares for Sydney and Stockton Ferry services as part of Opal fares review.

Submissions to the Draft Report close on 27 October, with an opportunity for further comments at a public hearing to be held on 23 October. All stakeholder comments will be taken into consideration before making the final determination in December.

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

The Draft Report is available on IPART's website  
<<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au>>