

## PRIVATE FERRY FARES UNDER REVIEW

26 August 2013

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is calling for public submissions on how best to set fares for regular private ferry services and the Stockton ferry in Newcastle.

Each year, IPART sets maximum fares that can be charged by the private operators of regular ferry services, and also the Stockton ferry service, which is operated by Newcastle Buses and Ferries. After five years of basing fares on two different cost models (for slow and fast ferries), IPART is considering new, simplified approaches for the future, as well as setting maximum fares to be effective from December 2013 and January 2014.

IPART Chairman Dr Peter Boxall said the issues paper released today for *Review of fares for Private Ferries and Stockton Ferry from 2014*, invites public comment about the best approach for fares.

“This review will consider the costs involved in providing these services in the most efficient way, as well as the impacts of the fares on customers,” Dr Boxall said.

The services covered by the 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
- Palm Beach Ferries – Palm Beach to Mackerel Beach and the Basin, and Palm Beach to Ettalong and Wagstaffe
- Stockton Ferry (Newcastle Buses and Ferries) – Newcastle to Stockton

“We are seeking feedback from both the ferry operators and the passengers who use these services on how to best set fares to address affordability, reliability, quality and safety,” Dr Boxall said.

Submissions to the issues paper close on 20 September 2013. A draft report will be released in October for further comment, along with a public hearing before the final report is provided to Transport for NSW in December. The Issues Paper is available on IPART’s website <<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au>>.

Media Contact: Julie Sheather 02 9290 8403 or 0409 514 643