

**Subject:** Ferry Fares

Dear IPAT Members,

Although a little late due to my absence from Sydney, I would ask that you consider the following in your deliberations regarding any price increases for the Manly Ferry services:

- 1) It is accepted that fuel prices add to costs but that is only one part of the equation. The other side is demand and price increase to an already expensive transport service as compared to train and bus would have a detrimental affect on the commuting public and further lower demand. This could then lead to a larger operating deficit.
- 2) Travelling from the Northern Peninsular is difficult at the best of times as there is no heavy rail. The alternatives are private vehicle, bus, ferry and a combination of these. The road system is well and truly burdened already and any switch to bus and private vehicles would have further detrimental effects including environmental issues.
- 3) The ferry service is an excellent and low impact public transport system. It should be stressed that it is a 'public service' and as such, somewhat similar to education and health, should be funded partly by the wider community as it's use has a community impact. This is true of all public mass transport and should remain to be seen in this manner and therefore not all cost recovery should be by way of 'user pays.'
- 4) That being said, the regular commuter is the one who should benefit from the subsidised public transport system. This can be done by ensuring that regular users have access to tickets with significant discounts as compared to the casual user who is often likely to be a tourist. Tourists and casual users would be generally price insensitive as the one off costs would not have any significant financial impact.
- 5) A suggestion then would be to raise the single ticket prices significantly and the regular user tickets such as Ferry 10 not at all or at worst only modestly.

I look forward to a favourable and forward looking decision that benefits the commuting public and the community in general.

Sincerely,

David Horton