

Blue Mountains Commuter & Transport Users Assoc.Inc.  
Ref.Submission IPART Ferry  
Date 20<sup>th</sup> Sept.04

The Chairman.  
IPART

Submission to Inquiry on Ferry Fares.

- The Ferries are an integral part of the public transport system and thus the fare structure should have the same transport fare structure as the bus and rail thus subsidy by the Government should be similar.
- The ferries have been an integral part of the Sydney Harbour Scene should be part of the Heritage of the Harbour. The impression given in the last few years that with the building of the many apartment blocks etc that the residents would like to see the Harbour as a Private Water view
- The Fares should be affordable, have equity to all the Community.
- Family Fares should also be affordable for the many families who like to enjoy the Harbour Services they may not use every day but a trip on the Harbour is an event that has been enjoyed by many in the all of the suburbs of the Sydney.
- The government should consider the ferrics as a service to the community not as a private company. Higher fares will support the drift to the motor car which incurs the road, health, pollution etc.
- For the Ferry Corporation to complain about the congestion in the Quay Area and the subtle hint that costs are incurred, this does not sit well when rail services suffer congestion at various points e.g slowing down of trains at the Goulburn Street entrance to the Tunnels and the slowing down of buses in the CBD. Was this problem foreseen when we had more ferries to the Quay and hence Double ended ferries.
- The increase costs claimed by the Ferry Corp from the conditions placed on it by Statuary and Safety Regulations then it would not be beyond reason that the costs incurred should be funded by the Government as an obligation as duty and care to protect the population as we have from the Police. ( A State Tax issue ).
- The question of the diverse fleet is another issue which stems from Government and Management Decisions from the past. The Governments make wrong decisions and once again we all have to wear these wrong decisions by politicians and thus, as we elected them then it is a State Tax Issue. (A look at the Railways with the costs that have been covered by Government over the years).

Over 2

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- The question of the Quality System that in management view is costing too much then why is a Singapore Company being used and not an Australian also has the system been introduced that may seem to have little relevance to the staff at the work face A Quality system can be effective and not at such a higher level that makes every one feel good it is there but no practicality.certainly needs review

There are issues of management that influence the costs that occur due to:

- Efficient Management
- Management structure that is out of proportion of the number of staff employed.
- Losses incurred due to inefficient maintenance procedures.
- Delays in the decision making process.
- Problems that occur from acquisition of hardware whether they be ferries, ticket machines.etc.
- Inability to adjust ferry timetables in Festive, Holidays etc that is provide a ferry to cater for increase patronage e.g Watson Bay Ferry not able to take all customers, witnessed twice in Christmas Holidays.

The Association receives comments re Ferry Services which on the whole are considered an enjoyable experience, families should be able to access the services that are affordable, comfortable, safe and also built that have outside accommodation for the enjoyment of the views, sunshine etc that are part of harbour scene. Sydney Ferry Corporation should realize that the ferries and not only Commuter Transport but has as a Tourist Service to the many in NSW both Sydney and Country.

Yours sincerely

Paul Trevaskis Hon.Sect.

Ref. Ferry Review August 2001.