

Manly Council



Reference: 280904 MB:TB
Enquiries: Michael Batt

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
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Dear Sir/Madam,

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Re: Proposed Increased Ferry Fares

Manly Council has considered the various submissions, particularly that if the Sydney Ferries Corporation, with regard to increased ferry fares, prior to lodging this submission.

The Council opposes any fare increases unless it receives assurances that:

- (a) the Corporation has made a commitment to upgrading and fleet replacement to maintain and improve the frequency and quality of services to Manly; and
- (b) the Corporation will develop a passenger strategy to reflect the growth of Sydney (and Manly) in accordance with the Metro Strategy.

In considering this matter it was noted that the Corporation submission to IPART was weighted towards revenue and cost recovery. But there is no reference to increasing patronage by promoting, upgrading and improving services. There is also no reference to any future replacement or upgrading of the fleet.

It would appear the Corporation has failed to recognize the future growth of Sydney which is currently being reviewed in the Metro Strategy. The Harbour effectively divides the City and historically large volumes of people have used the ferries to overcome this barrier. This is not addressed by Sydney Ferries who appear to have failed to acknowledge the future growth of the City and to develop a passenger strategy for this potential growth.

The ferries are an important element of Sydney's transport infrastructure and have a particular relevance to Manly, where they currently contribute to the success of the Manly Town Centre as a tourist destination as well as servicing local and regional commuters. Their use should be promoted, and not degraded because of increased fares and reduced services.

The Council would be happy to discuss any of these issues with you.

Yours faithfully,


Henry T Wong
General Manager

Date 28/9/04