



MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Transport
Minister for the Central Coast
John Robertson MLC

Friday, 6th August 2010

PROPOSED NEW FERRY TIMETABLE TO PROVIDE BETTER SERVICES

Minister for Transport John Robertson today announced plans for ferry timetable adjustments to better match services with demand for Sydney Ferries passengers – and encouraged the community to have their say on the proposal.

“Over recent years, we’ve seen significant growth along a number of ferry routes – particularly along the Parramatta River,” he said.

“There is a need for more services along some routes – which this proposed timetable delivers.

“The proposal will see an increase in the number of services for commuters along the Parramatta River, more frequent weekend services for families heading to Taronga Zoo and the introduction of a late night ‘hopper’ service between Circular Quay, Balmain East (Darling St) and Milsons Point.

“Commuters have until Wednesday 25 August to have their say on the proposed changes, with the timetable on track to be implemented with timetable changes on some bus routes and train lines on 10 October.

“It’s critical the new timetable integrates with other transport connections, such as buses.

“I’d encourage ferry commuters to have a look at the proposed timetable and provide feedback to Sydney Ferries.”

Other proposed changes include:

- More frequent peak services to and from Balmain (Thames St and Darling St) to Darling Harbour;
- Rydalmere, Sydney Olympic Park, Meadowbank, Kissing Point, Cabarita and Abbotsford wharves will gain extra services to and from Darling Harbour (King St);
- Extended evening services on the Parramatta River on weekdays and Saturdays, including later inbound services to Circular Quay from Kissing Point, Cabarita, Abbotsford, Chiswick, Huntleys Point and Drummoyne;
- Increased frequency of services to and from McMahons Point, Milsons Point, Darling Harbour and Pyrmont Bay;
- Improved safety within Sydney Cove by better balancing ferry arrival and departure times to reduce congestion;
- The shifting of some services from lower demand areas to areas of increasing peak demand on the Parramatta River such as Drummoyne, Abbotsford and Cabarita and areas of increasing off-peak demand such as Taronga Zoo and Darling Harbour;
- The frequency of some services to Neutral Bay and Mosman will be changed to run to more regular timetable. Peak hour services on these routes are currently running at irregular intervals – under the proposal, services to Mosman will now run every 20 – 25 mins and every 30 mins to Neutral Bay during the peak;

- Off peak services on these routes will run every hour under the proposed changes. Some of these services run below less than ten per cent capacity; and
- The proposed changes will not affect Manly Ferry users.

Member for Balmain Verity Firth said the proposal aims to improve transport connections and create a city west passenger hub at Darling Harbour.

“There are clear benefits of this proposal for Balmain ferry commuters, including extra services such as the new late night hopper service between Darling St Wharf and the City,” she said.

“The proposal is designed to better cater for areas and times of day where there is the highest demand and also incorporate new NSW Maritime speed restrictions around Darling Harbour.

“To do this King Street wharf will be gated and become the primary wharf for services to Darling Harbour, with more city services stopping there.

“The move reflects the growth of businesses on the west side of the CBD and will better cater for the growing number of office workers on that side of the city.”

Member for Drummoyne Angela D’Amore said the proposed changes come after the NSW Government signed a new contract with Sydney Ferries last year.

“These improvements allow Sydney Ferries to better plan services to meet increased demand along the Parramatta River,” she said.

“Commuters in Drummoyne will benefit from this proposal, with extra services along routes that have shown strong patronage.

“The new contract sets clear performance standards for Sydney Ferries, focusing on the key areas of safety, reliability, customer service and productivity.

“I’m pleased to report Sydney Ferries is making improvements in these key areas.”

In the last financial year, Sydney Ferries reported:

- Service reliability was at 99.9%;
- On-time running was at 98.1%;
- Complaints per 100,000 passengers was down to 4.4; and
- Patronage increased by three per cent to 14,339,000.

“Unlike the Opposition who want to franchise ferry services out like McDonalds, we’re committed to working with Sydney Ferries to continue to improve services for passengers,” Mr Robertson said.

Information about the proposed timetable is available on Sydney Ferries' website www.sydneyferries.info.

Passengers can also request a copy be mailed to them by or make a comment about the proposed timetable by calling 1800 802 888.

Feedback can also be provided by emailing haveyoursay@sydneyferries.nsw.gov.au or by mailing a submission to Sydney Ferries Have Your Say, PO Box R1799, Royal Exchange, NSW, 1225.

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