

Bruny Island Ferry Reference Group

Communique #9

11th December 2018

The Bruny Island Ferry Reference Group met for the 9th time on Tuesday the 11th December 2018 at the Health Centre at Alonnah.

The Department of State Growth infrastructure “first stage” changes aimed at reducing the queuing up the hill at Robert’s Point on Bruny Island have progressed very well and the final stages of lane marking, and signage is planned. Some of these additional elements may not be complete prior to the Christmas season. Information on the upgrades is available via the State Roads website. The community are asked to be patient during this time as new procedures come into place for loading the ferries.

An update on the Bruny Island ferry operations was provided and SeaLink is employing additional staff to add to its operations. SeaLink sought interest from Bruny Island residents interested in working in a variety of casual roles for SeaLink to contact our office staff.

During November more than 14,000 vehicle movements were recorded on the route. The three boats were in operation throughout the month with the introduction of Bowen in the extreme tidal range which has been evident over the last month.

SeaLink trialed berthing the Moongalba at Roberts Point and operated a 6.30am service off Bruny Island for the first time. It received some strong feedback and SeaLink are continuing to trial this service periodically in December. Operationally modifications need to be made to the infrastructure before this can be done permanently. Since mid-November the 1.30pm and 2.30pm services from Kettering have also been operating and therefore 25 services daily have been operating to and from Bruny Island daily, more services than ever before.

SeaLink will be working with the community to implement market research on board the vessels to gain an insight into both visitor priorities and resident/landowner priorities over the busy season. This research will seek more feedback on ferry schedules including later ferries that may be connected with community and visitor events.

SeaLink are continuing to plan for ticketing improvements and plan to implement on line ticket sales in early 2019 and initial planning has commenced for this.

SeaLink reported that there were still a lot of resident/landowner vehicle sticker renewals outstanding and it appeared they would need to extend the validity of the current stickers. Residents and Landowners will now have until 23rd February to renew their credentials with SeaLink. Residents/Landowners with new vehicles will be issued temporary stickers until this time.

SeaLink reported that Richardson Devine Marine in Hobart had commenced the first of the new builds in their factory in Goodwood and SeaLink is now working with the Department of State Growth and the vessel designers on the second vessel design and infrastructure changes that may be necessary to improve vehicle accessibility to the ferries.

SeaLink have confirmed that it intends to sign a lease for its permanent office at the Gateway Information Centre in Kettering and will look to establish its operations permanently in this base.

The Next Meeting is planned for 19th February 2019.