

## **Bruny Island Ferry Reference Group**

### **Communique**

**30 October 2018**

The Bruny Island Ferry Reference Group met for the 8<sup>th</sup> time on Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at the Health Centre at Alonnah.

The Department of State Growth provided an update on the infrastructure changes for Kettering and Robert's Point. Upgrade work will be completed in 2 stages. Stage 1 will commence at Robert's Point in November 2018, Stage 2 will require planning approval and is scheduled to commence post Easter 2019. The Department of State Growth confirmed that Stage 1 upgrades will be completed prior to the beginning of school holidays, and there will be minimal disruption during this time. Information on the upgrades will soon be available via the State Roads website.

SeaLink provided an update on the first trial of 3 ferries in service. The Mirambeena and Moongalba will continue to operate on the published timetable, the Bowen will pick up any overflow from the Moongalba during peak times. There will be no 'shuttling' when the 3 vessels are operating, however the 'on demand departures will be added at peak times. The Department of State Growth confirmed that the Bowen will have no restrictions and will now be available 365 days per year. SeaLink have held initial discussions with a naval architect to minimize the spray on the Bowen.

SeaLink will continue to provide data to the Ferry Reference Group on ferry usage, including the percentage of visitors, residents and land owners utilizing the ferry service.

The Bruny Island Ferry Reference Group discussed the proposed SeaLink Bruny Island 'Islander Club' benefits. The draft proposal included the provision of a limited number of annual Family and Friends discount passes for resident households, similarly for Family and Friends discount passes for landowners, recreational vehicle discount for resident households, and local business account discounts for commercial vehicles over 6m. These benefits were agreed to by the Ferry Reference Group and will be communicated and implemented by SeaLink in the coming weeks in conjunction with the BI and R pass renewals. SeaLink will also offer sponsorship for sporting, tourism, environmental and community groups, in the form of transport assistance.

SeaLink have been working with customers who regularly travel with heavy vehicles and freight to ensure they have the best solutions for their travel. Travel arrangements have been discussed, however a provisional booking system trial hasn't been introduced at this stage.

The next meeting of the Reference Group will be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December