

Bruny Island Ferry Reference Group

Meeting #10

Date: 19th February 2019

Time: 8:30-11:10am

Venue: Jane Finn Room, Health Centre Alonnah

Attendees: Trevor Adams, Lindon Haigh, Siobhan Gaskell, Mathew Fagan, Drew Meincke, Tony Ferrier, Bernice Woolley, Richard Clarke, Gillian Fowler

Apologies: Paul Victory, Paul Davis

Welcome and previous minutes

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:35, welcomed members and noted Paul Victory and Paul Davis as apologies. There was discussion among attendees regarding existing member Paul Davis to confirm if he wishes to continue. Also discussed with concern was the lack of recent representation to this meeting & December 2018 meeting by a DSG representative following the departure of Allison Turner.

Trevor Adams moved a motion that the previous minutes as circulated be accepted as a true and accurate record of events. The motion was seconded by Mathew Fagan and carried following concerns raised by Lindon Haigh.

There was an apology from SeaLink for the possible delay in producing prior meeting minutes & agendas. Drew Meincke advised SeaLink will continue as secretary to ensure timely and accurate documentation and distribution of Communique's and Minutes.

Progress & Operation update

Online Ticket Sales : will be trialled commencing in the second quarter 2019. The primary aim is to reduce time at the ticket booth & queuing times on high demand days. The group discussed issues with variable fare prices & how this would be managed. Possibility of pre-paid option for "R" & "BI"?
Responsibility: DM

3rd Vessel (Bowen): Has been in regular use providing extra capacity over the summer as well as regular Sunday's to provide capacity for end of weekend loadings. Carriage numbers determine viability as logistically & economically the additional crew and operating costs prevent unlimited use. Experience operating 3 vessels simultaneously has proven that queuing can only be reduced but not eliminated due to inefficiencies in the time to load/unload whilst existing shoreside infrastructure remains. Learnings have found Bowen being usually utilised following Moongalba in the AM and following Mirambeena in the PM. Bowen also allows for vessel services, maintenance & statutory drills to be conducted without impact to regular timetable services. SeaLink's challenges will continue as 3 vessels are operated from aging infrastructure designed for one vessel.

Mirambeena maintenance & statutory slipping: Due to vessel age & uniqueness parts for Mirambeena are no longer "off the shelf" & require custom manufacturing which requires considerable expense & long lead times for supply. It is likely that Mirambeena will be off time table for 2 periods totally approximately 4 weeks. The first period will be in May before winter weather adds further delays. The second period will be the actual slipping (once parts arrive) likely in July.

Moongalba (& Bowen) will provide capacity as determined by demand.

Responsibility: DM to advise timetable adjustments as applicable.

Concerns and Community Feedback:

R & BI Stickers: SeaLink advised that all completed applications for R & BI stickers had been mailed out 18th February 2018. The group agreed that SeaLink are to send out a prompt deadline in Communique & Website advising of the 1st March 2019 cut-off for the use of old stickers. Responsibility: DM/SeaLink

Roberts Point Queuing: The Group discussed the issue with queue jumping at Roberts Point, the Group acknowledged the upgraded lane markings (Jan 2019) were an improvement but still with limitations when traffic Marshalls are not in attendance. SeaLink will continue to place Marshalls during high demand periods & have since allocated resources to upgrading CCTV cameras & giving ferry crews live access for monitoring between departures. Responsibility DM

Ferry Road Queuing: SeaLink advised they have successfully trialled early loading of Mirambeena for her 1pm departure during periods of high demand. The service follows the crew's mandatory lunch break. CSO staff aid loading which keeps a steady flow of traffic through the ticket booth.

Lennon Road: The group confirms that adjustment of speed limits are still outstanding. The group also request a dedicated transfer area for Ambulance & Nursing staff to be included in Stage 2. Allowance for a slow vehicle turn out lane early on Lennon Road should be included as no safe overtaking lanes are provided.

Responsibility: DSG

Boarding Priority: after considerable discussion the group agreed that priority for emergency vehicles was unchanged. Pathology samples although given priority were only held in Kettering or Snug overnight & were collected the following day. Nurses on the island had contacted members of this group & advised they didn't request priority. Following concerns by members of the public SeaLink contacted various emergency services, RHH, SES as well as the Huon Medical Centre & the outcome was educational & informative. During the recent bushfires Mirambeena & Moongalba carried multiple patients off the island & assisted Tas-Fire on multiple occasions without incident. Further verification will be explained in the next communique following review of ferry contract. This to include the carriage of life stock. Responsibility: DM

Onboard vehicle safety: the group requested SeaLink reiterate the application of handbrakes to minimise the chance of contact between vehicles. It is common practise for residents & regular users but not so for visitors. Responsibility: DM

Trailer Fares : the group discussed the clarification of the trailer fares as at the ticket booth & SeaLink web page it is unclear and ambiguous. Standard and unlimited lengths are not defined. DM advised an explanation would be given in the next communique. Responsibility: DM

SeaLink implementation plan:

SeaLink representatives advised the Group that the first 5 months of operation had gone well, and the company is pleased overall. SeaLink has continued to receive primarily positive feedback from ferry users.

SeaLink advised the MV Moongalba has now resolved operational limitations regarding low tides with the installation of extended ramp tips at both terminals whilst Bowen has been receiving maintenance & upgrades at significant cost following her statutory survey.

SeaLink Kettering Office: further floorspace has recently been obtained & quotes obtained for minor renovations as well as further IT & communications upgrades.

Traffic Marshalling Training: Multiple SeaLink are staff shortly attending accredited training.

Visitor Survey: SeaLink advised that Parks & Wildlife will shortly commence a visitor survey at Roberts Point Terminal. This will continue randomly over the coming weeks until late April. SeaLink still intend to conduct a survey to review operations & passenger satisfaction. The timing has been delayed due to significant work-load but carriage data is still being collected. The group requested as a minimum the breakdown of carriage type & DM advised this would be included in the next communiqué.

Responsibility: DM

Sponsorship: SeaLink advised they will be supporting the Nyari Niara Festival (March Long Weekend) & requested from the group of any major community events occurring in the coming months. The group advised of the Woodchopping Carnival which is held over Easter.

Commencement of build of new vessel ferries.

Richardson Devine Marine of Hobart are imminently about to commence the build of the first of two new vessels for Bruny Island. SeaLink are working with the builder to refine requirements as more is learnt with allowance for future-proofing. The first vessel will be launched mid December 2018 with the second ferry due in early 2021. This will be prior to Mirambeena's 30 year survey and slipping.

Communiqué / Summary of Outcomes

The group feel that allocation of responsibilities for closure of outstanding issues will assist in progress continuing. The group are still passionate and feel it has an ongoing purpose whilst new infrastructure and systems are in planning, construction or development.

Other Business

The group seek DSG representation at the following meeting with a focus on landside infrastructure

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 March 2019 at RDM Goodwood, commencing at 9:30am.

The Chair closed the meeting at 11:10am.