Bruny Island Ferry Reference Group

Meeting #8

Date: 30th October 2018
Time: 8:30-10:30am

Venue: Jane Finn Room, Health Centre Alonnah

Attendees: Trevor Adams, Lindon Haigh, Siobhan Gaskell, Mathew Fagan, Drew Meincke, Tony Ferrier, Bernice Woolley, Gary Swaine, Peter Hubble, Anne Dyson

Apologies: Richard Clarke, Paul Victory, Kim Evans

Welcome and previous minutes

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:40, welcomed members and noted Richard Clarke, Paul Victory and Kim Evans as apologies.

Trevor Adams moved a motion that the minutes as circulated on 8 October 2018 be accepted as a true and accurate record of events. The motion was seconded by Drew Meincke and carried.

There was a vote of thanks to Alison Turner for her role as Secretary, and her timely and accurate documentation and distribution of Communique’s and Minutes.

Progress update – Infrastructure Planning

Peter Hubble from State Roads presented the infrastructure concepts for the terminals at Ferry Road Kettering, and Roberts Point Bruny Island. Feedback from the previous meeting had been taken into consideration. The works will be undertaken in multiple stages, the first stage will be at Roberts Point and is scheduled for completion by the end of November. The work in this first stage will include the addition of 2 extra loading lanes, and temporary car parking on the left-hand side of the road. Communication of the road works will be sent to residents, with the plans uploaded onto the State Roads website.

Approval is required for stage 2 at Roberts Point, stage 2 will include a sealed parking area for 20 cars, a turning circle, check in booth, sealed footpath from the parking area to the ferry, a drive through lane and electronic signage.

Stage 2 will also encompass the ferry terminal at Kettering, which will include the addition of a standby lane and electronic signage at relevant points along Ferry Road.

The Group discussed the issue with traffic management at Roberts Point, the Group acknowledged the replacement speed limit sign changing the speed limit from 90kph to 60kph on the approach to the loading lanes at Roberts Point. There were still concerns as to the safety of the public during the infrastructure changes. State Roads will ensure the safety of the public whilst the works are undertaken, and SeaLink will continue to provide vehicle marshalling during busy times at Roberts Point.

DSG representatives reiterated that the infrastructure changes will be funded separately to the $8 million that has been allocated to the Island for roads and community infrastructure.

Progress update – SeaLink implementation plan

SeaLink representatives advised the Group that the first 5 weeks of operation had gone well, and the company is pleased overall. SeaLink has continued to receive positive feedback from ferry users.
SeaLink has taken on board the customer feedback in relation to the ‘on demand sailings’, and have removed these sailings from the website, and have reprinted the timetables.

New signage has also been installed with the old signage from the previous operator removed.

In the 5 weeks of operation the demand has indicated that the 2.30pm from Kettering and the 3.00pm departures from Roberts Point operated on multiple weekends. The 1.30pm from Kettering and the 2.00pm from Roberts Point had also operated over the Show Day long weekend.

MV Moongalba experienced some manoeuvrability issues which were weather related due to low tides, this required greater movement of the ramp at Kettering. The ramp tips are required to be extended to accommodate these low tides. The MV Moongalba has received mixed reviews by the community, unfortunately minimal delays have occurred while berthing the vessel in various weather conditions, as the crews have prioritised safety over risking passenger vehicle or infrastructure damage. Some further adjustments to the loading ramps are being implemented as part of the ongoing repair and maintenance as well as allowing MV Moongalba to operate effectively during low tides.

**Progress Update – Commitment to new vessel builds / Purchase of MV Bowen**

SeaLink have recently purchased the MV Bowen, the 3rd vessel concept was trialled with Smolt runs and during the Show Day long weekend, and proved that queues at Roberts Point could be cleared quickly. SeaLink recognised that it was not one of the busiest weekends and they were able to reduce to 2 vessels once the queue had been cleared.

With the new builder and design concepts announced, SeaLink will refine the exact plans prior to the build. Larger vessels would require new wharf infrastructure and would need to be discussed with State Growth. The addition of the MV Bowen allows operational flexibility allowing the design of the new build vessels not to be compromised in needing to fully provide for cargos such as oversize loads disrupting the regular schedule. SeaLink have been in discussions with a naval architect to minimise the wave spray on the MV Bowen.

The ferry timetable will remain the same with the MV Bowen picking up the overflow. There will not be the shuttling services as experience previously. MV Bowen will be available for 365 days of the year, an increase from its previous capacity to service Bruny Island.

SeaLink will continue to collect data and deliver demand trends at the next meeting. The first 5 weeks of operation are being analysed but noted that it is still quite early and not necessarily yet representative of typical travel patterns given commencement of daylight savings and improving weather. The percentage of travel by Bruny Island Residents is currently 14%, and the percentage of Bruny Island landowners is currently 17%. Passenger numbers are also now being collated.

A proposal for the ‘Bruny Islander Club’ benefits was presented by SeaLink, following the request by the Bruny Island Ferry Reference Group, this included

- Family and Friends discount passes for resident households
- Family and Friends discount passes for landowners
- Recreational vehicle discount for resident households
- Family and Friends special travel discounts
- Local business account discounts for commercial vehicles over 6m
- Unlimited eligible vehicles (under 6m) for resident households (R stickers)
- Introduction of SeaLink CommunityLink sponsorship program.
Community Feedback

SeaLink representatives enquired as to when ‘The Neck’ is due to reopen, there is no final date set yet. The Bruny Island Tourism Map is currently at the printers and was able to include the updated SeaLink ferry timetable.

Communique / Summary of Outcomes

The Group discussed the ferry timetable with 3 vessels in operation. The SeaLink timetable will remain the same with the MV Mirambeena and MV Moongalba on their regular timetable. Additional departures will be added if demand requires, and the MV Bowen will be added if required.

The communique will include the proposed ‘Islander Club’ benefit proposal discussion, which includes assistance with family and friends travel, recreational vehicles and freight.

The Group discussed clarification on the communication in relation to the booking system for heavy vehicles and freight, the finalised communication is as follows – *We have been working with customers who regularly travel with heavy vehicles and freight to ensure we have the best solutions for their travel. Travel arrangements have been discussed, however a provisional booking system hasn’t been introduced at this stage.*

Other Business

Nil.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 December 2018 at Alonnah Medical Centre, commencing at 8:30am.

The Chair closed the meeting at 10:40am.