

# Meeting Minutes

## Bruny Island Ferry Reference Group – Meeting 19

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**Date:** Wednesday, 19 August 2020

**Time:** 9:00 am – 11:00 pm

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**Location:** Jane Finn Room, Bruny Island Health Centre, Alonnah

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<b>Attendees:</b>	
Trevor Adams	Chair, Bruny Island Ferry Reference Group
Paul Davis	Bruny Island Ferry Reference Group
Mathew Fagan	Bruny Island Ferry Reference Group
Alan Gulyas	Bruny Island Ferry Reference Group
Siobhan Gaskell	Bruny Island Ferry Reference Group
Lindon Haigh	Bruny Island Ferry Reference Group
Bernice Woolley	Bruny Island Ferry Reference Group
Tony Ferrier	Deputy General Manager, Kingborough Council
Tania Matthews	General Manager – Tasmania, SeaLink
Lindsay Sward	Master, SeaLink
Nicole Trounce	Assistant Director Public Transport, State Growth
Mat Kluver	Senior Contracts Officer, State Growth
Ian Booth	A/G Project Management Team Leader, Project Services, State Growth
Lucy Bennett	Stakeholder Engagement Consultant, Venturer Communications

<b>Apologies:</b>	
Donna Gauci	Chief Operating Officer, SeaLink

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### Summary of community Q&A session (held prior to Reference Group meeting)

A community Q&A session was held from 9:00 to 9:30 am. One community member attended.

At the time, it was the belief of State Growth representatives in attendance at the meeting that the community member was asking questions about whether an all-encompassing, long-term plan for Bruny Island has been developed. These questions

expanded beyond the scope of the ferry service to include matters such as tourism management, estimates of visitor growth and the associated impacts. State Growth responded that no such plan had been developed and that such questions should be directed toward the Ministers and the Government as they were beyond the role of the BIFRG. While the community member did ask for the BIFRG to carry this matter forward, the response was that it is not the role of this group.

Since the meeting it has been suggested by BIFRG members and as noted in the Bruny News, that the community member was also asking questions about whether there is an overall plans for the ferry service which encompasses the completed Ferry Road upgrades and marshalling areas works, traffic management and operational matters, the current terminal infrastructure project and any future infrastructure works. While a response to this question was not provided during the meeting, State Growth can confirm that there is no single plan which encompasses all of these items.

The current infrastructure project (for which State Growth is responsible) is focused on reducing the queuing and congestion at the ferry terminals, removing the single-ramp dependencies at Kettering and Roberts Point and improving pedestrian safety. To inform the upgrade works, State Growth has developed an internal Project Management Plan which identifies the phases of the project, including costings, identification of regulatory approvals, risk management planning, quality requirements, communication, management and the overall procurement plan. Furthermore, State Growth is consulting frequently with SeaLink on the design of the infrastructure works to ensure that it is fit for purpose for operation of the ferry service, inclusive of traffic management.

These major terminal upgrade works build upon smaller, targeted improvements made to marshalling areas and the Oyster Cove Inn overflow queueing lane in 2019. These incremental works were designed to address congestion and traffic flow issues in the short term and with the available budget at the time, but it was recognised that more work would need to be done, hence, the current major upgrade works were put forward. As to the questions about the cost of the terminal upgrade project, the reason the current project costs have not been made public available is because State Growth is still going through the tender process and to release the budget would prejudice the tender process. However, State Growth can confirm that funds have been made available. A question was also asked about the cost of previous works completed. A response to this question will be provided at the next Reference Group meeting. The matter has been added to the 'list of agreed actions' below.

The next BIFRG community Q&A session will be held prior to meeting #20 on 30 September 2020.

Item	Agenda Item	Action
1)	<p>Introduction and apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair opened the meeting at 9.30 am.</li> <li>• The Chair noted an apology from Donna Gauci.</li> <li>• The Chair welcomed Ian Booth, Lucy Bennett and Lindsay Sward to their first BIFRG meeting.</li> </ul>	

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2)	<p>Confirmation of minutes of the previous meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minutes and communiqué of the previous meeting were confirmed via email on 25 May 2020.</li> </ul>	
3)	<p>SeaLink service update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SeaLink explained that vehicle numbers are still below last year particularly in June, but it is seeing an increase in Tasmanian travel, which is encouraging.</li> <li>SeaLink advised that the pattern of travel has changed quite significantly, with Friday afternoon and some Saturday mornings ex Kettering, and Sunday afternoon ex Roberts Point are now peak travel times.</li> <li>The variation in travel patterns is also evident with the large numbers of trades and services going on to the Island on the early services.</li> <li>SeaLink advised that much of its staff is still on significantly reduced hours and that some staff members remain stood down.</li> <li>SeaLink advised that it had been running additional ferry services on some days. SeaLink explained that the operation of additional services will run on demand and may not necessarily be advertised.</li> <li>The Mirambeena was off-the-run for four days in June so that it could undergo repairs. During this period, the Nairana ran to the timetable and the Bowen provided additional support to meet demand.</li> <li>SeaLink explained that it has been expanding its crew training and capabilities. This will allow crew members to work flexibly across multiple vessels and provide SeaLink with better capacity to rotate vessels.</li> <li>SeaLink noted that it can be complex to accommodate large vehicles (e.g. log trucks and cement trucks). SeaLink is working with contractors and suppliers to plan for the transport of large vehicles and to minimise the impact on other ferry users.</li> <li>SeaLink advised that it had seen an increase in ambulance travel in recent months. SeaLink continues to work with the medical team on Bruny to cater for ambulance transport. This includes having processes in place to hold ferries for ambulances where required.</li> <li>SeaLink advised that its second new-build ferry is on track for a March 2021 delivery. SeaLink is awaiting final approval of the vessel name and is hoping to make an announcement soon.</li> <li>Planning for the booking system continues. A few members noted that there had not been any substantive news on the booking system since SeaLink held the BIFRG booking system workshop on 3 June 2020. Members all agreed that the workshop had been productive, but said that they would like an update. SeaLink assured members that planning for the booking system is continuing. SeaLink is currently collecting information to understand better how different user groups use the ferry and to determine how the system can best cater for booked and unbooked passenger. SeaLink plans to commence wider</li> </ul>	

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	<p>consultation soon. The Group discussed the pros and cons of a booking system and some strong views were expressed on how the system in their view needs to minimise impact on those who don't want to book. SeaLink will provide an update at the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SeaLink advised that emails and letters were in the process of being sent to all current BI and R sticker holders with information about the upcoming sticker renewal process. SeaLink announced that a new round of family and friends discount passes would be issued alongside the new stickers. These passes are a gift from SeaLink to Islanders, are designed to encourage travel to Bruny Island to support local businesses and are not subsidised by State Growth.</li> <li>• State Growth noted that without tourism patronage, demand for the ferry service is driven by landowners and residents who receive subsidised fares. As a consequence, SeaLink is operating the service at a loss and has been since interstate travel restrictions were put in place in March 2020. State Growth has provided additional financial support to SeaLink to help minimise losses and maintain the viability of the service for Bruny Island residents and landowners.</li> </ul>	
4)	<p>Community matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A BIFRG member asked SeaLink about when it would publish the summer timetable. SeaLink responded that numbers are still very low and unpredictable and it is working out how a summer timetable will look in light of COVID-19. SeaLink committed to providing the community with an update in early September 2020.</li> <li>• The group discussed the 'Make yourself at home travel voucher' package announced by Premier Peter Gutwein on 18 August 2020. It was discussed how these travel vouchers might encourage more Tasmanian's to visit Bruny Island.</li> </ul>	
5)	<p>State Growth Infrastructure Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Growth provided an update on the Bruny Island Ferry Terminal Upgrade project.</li> <li>• A public display was held at Kingborough Council between 3 and 14 August 2020. The plans were also available on the Transport website, posted up at the ferry terminal and other locations across the Island.</li> <li>• State Growth advised that works are due to commence in late September 2020 and are expected to be completed by late March 2021 to coincide with the delivery of the second new vessel.</li> <li>• State Growth confirmed that an emergency berth at Roberts Point will be available throughout the entire upgrade works. State Growth will construct a new emergency access jetty/berth at Roberts Point as part of the upgrade works.</li> <li>• A question was asked about the ticket scanner shown on project plans at Kettering and Roberts. State Growth explained that this is</li> </ul>	

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	<p>part of future-proofing the designs and making sure they are capable of supporting a booking system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A member asked a question about whether more detailed project plans would be made available to the BIFRG. The answer was no. The remaining plans prepared for the project will be technical documents to assist the contractors undertaking the work.</li> <li>• Parking near the Kettering ferry terminal, the impact of cars turning on Ferry Road and the number of cars parked long-term on Ferry Road was discussed. It was noted that there is some overlapping responsibilities between State Growth and Council on this matter. The feedback was recorded by State Growth and the Council for further consideration.</li> </ul>	
6)	<p>Other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tony Ferrier from Kingborough Council provided an update on the Bruny Island Destination Action Plan Group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kingborough Council is administering a \$1.5M grant from the State Government that will fund the implementation of a number of projects relating to visitor infrastructure and information on Bruny Island.</li> <li>○ Council is running a visitor engagement program. This program is aimed at enhancing the visitor experience and communicating some important messages to visitors to minimise the impact on the local Bruny island community and natural environment.</li> <li>○ Council is also undertaking footpath improvement projects across this Island and upgrading rubbish bins with pairs or rubbish and recycling bins.</li> <li>○ More information can be found at <a href="https://www.kingborough.tas.gov.au/kingborough/engagement/bruny-island-engagement/">https://www.kingborough.tas.gov.au/kingborough/engagement/bruny-island-engagement/</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
7)	<p>Review agreed actions from the previous meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action item #14.2-1 is completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Action: State Growth to update the transport website with answers to FAQs about a booking system.</li> <li>○ Outcome: StateGrowth has now updated the Transport website with answers to frequently asked questions. The new website content can be viewed here: <a href="https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/public_transport/bruny_island_ferry">https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/public_transport/bruny_island_ferry</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Action items #15-1, #17-1 and #18.1 remain open.</li> </ul>	
8)	<p>Next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A next BIFRG meeting will be held at 9:00 am-11:00 am on 30 September 2020 at the Jane Finn Room, Bruny Medical Centre at Alonnah. A community Q&amp;A session will be held from 9:00 am-9:30 am.</li> </ul>	

Meeting closed at 11:05 pm.

## LIST OF AGREED ACTIONS

Action Item	Responsibility	Agreed Actions	Due Date	Status
#14.2-1	State Growth	State Growth to update the transport website with answers to FAQs about a booking system.		Completed
#15-1	SeaLink	SeaLink to consider what other ways they can advise passengers of queueing times.		Open
#17-1	SeaLink	SeaLink to speak to the developer of the Bruny Island Local Guide app to better understand the potentials and limitations of the app.		Open
#18-1	SeaLink	SeaLink to provide a response to question raised about retention of an individual's travel records		Open
#19-1	State Growth	State Growth to provide a response to question asked in Q&A session about the cost of completed Stage 1 and 2 project		Open