

The Hon Chris Minns MP
Premier of New South Wales



Ref: A6273721

The Hon. John Graham MLC
Minister for Transport and Roads
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Re: Referral to IPART for the review of maximum fares for Private Ferry Services

Dear Minister Graham,

I am responding to the former Transport Minister's letter dated 13 December 2024 seeking my approval to request that the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) review and determine maximum fares for Private Ferry Services.

I approve the referral pursuant to section 123(1)(a) of the *Passenger Transport Act 2014*, and have signed the referral document at Attachment A.

Sincerely,


Chris Minns MP
Premier of New South Wales

Date:

10/3/25

Encl: Attachment A - IPART Referral Letter from the Minister for Transport to the Premier of NSW

Passenger Transport Act 2014

Section 123(1)(a)

Referral

I, the Hon Jo Haylen MP, Minister for Transport, with the approval of the Hon Christopher Minns MP, NSW Premier, the Minister responsible for administering the *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992*, under section 123(1)(a) of the *Passenger Transport Act 2014*, refer Private Ferry Services to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for the determination of appropriate maximum fares from 1 January 2026.

In this referral, "**Private Ferry Services**" means public passenger ferry services provided by a private operator under contract to Transport for NSW (Transport), other than Opal Ferry Services, and includes services provided on the routes:

- A) Brooklyn to Dangar Island
- B) Circular Quay to Lane Cove
- C) Cronulla to Bundeena
- D) Palm Beach to Mackerel Beach
- E) Scotland Island and Western Foreshore of Pittwater
- F) Woy Woy to Empire Bay
- G) Yamba to Iluka.

Opal Ferry Services means a 'ferry service' that is not a 'private ferry service' within the meaning of a fares order made by Transport under section 125 of the *Passenger Transport Act 2014*.

In addition to the matters described in section 124 of the *Passenger Transport Act 2014*, in conducting this analysis and report, IPART is, under s123(2)(b) of the *Passenger Transport Act 2014*, to consider:

1. The level of competition for other modes for the different routes and resulting implications for fares, other types of transport modes available to customers, as well as gaps or duplication with Sydney Ferries.
2. Any performance metrics, such as service delays or cancellations.
3. Customers' willingness and capacity to pay in the different demographics where the routes operate.
4. Fares for ferry services on the Palm Beach to Ettalong route.
5. Any ongoing impacts of COVID on demand and customer behaviour.
6. Changes to fares and ticketing systems.
7. The implications of any potential Private Ferry Service becoming an Opal Ferry Service during the term of the determination.

IPART is to publicly consult on a draft report as soon as practicable.

IPART is to submit its final report and determination under this referral to the Minister for Transport by 14 November 2025.

Signed: 
Hon Joanna Elizabeth Haylen MP
Minister for Transport

Date: 13/12/24


Signed:
Hon Christopher John Minns MP
NSW Premier

Date: 11 March 2025