



Media Release

David Campbell MP

Minister for Transport

Minister for the Illawarra

INTEREST TO BE TESTED FOR MANLY HIGH-SPEED FERRY CONTRACT

Monday 10 August 2009

Minister for Transport David Campbell today called for private ferry operators interested in running the high speed ferry service between Manly and Circular Quay to register their interest with NSW Transport and Infrastructure.

Mr Campbell said the current contract with Bass and Flinders Cruises would expire at the end of March 2010 and the Government was now in a position to enter into a longer term arrangement for the service.

“Last year, private ferry operators indicated that they would be able to provide a high speed ferry service to Manly on a fully commercial basis,” Mr Campbell said.

“So far this has been successful and the NSW Government is looking to extend that contract.

“The contract was initially awarded on an interim basis to enable the Government to consider the best long-term solution for Manly commuters, in the context of the broader reforms being implemented through the Sydney Ferries market testing process.”

Based on experience gained since February this year, the Government has decided that Manly high-speed services will remain on a stand-alone, fully commercial basis.

“The new contract will provide the operator with wharf access at Circular Quay and Manly wharves for a period of at least 5 years, with a potential extension of an additional 3 years,” Mr Campbell said.

Mr Campbell said the decision had no impact on the regular Manly Ferry services provided by Sydney Ferries. He said existing service levels would remain and fares would continue to be set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

Tender documents for the new Manly high-speed service will be made available to registered parties in the coming months with the successful operator to be announced before the end of the year.

Interested operators should refer to the Government's e-tendering website for further information.

Registrations close on 27 August 2009.

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