



Simon Tamlyn
General Manager Tasmania SeaLink
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31 March 2025

SeaLink Bruny Island Winter Ferry Timetable

Dear Simon

I am writing on behalf of Friends of North Bruny (FONB) to provide feedback on the Winter Timetable proposed by SeaLink for the Bruny Island Ferry. FONB currently has 130+ members who are residents, shack and land owners on the island. They are geographically dispersed across North Bruny and include young families, commuters, business owners and retirees. We believe that FONB is reasonably representative of the perspectives of this community, and our members were invited to provide us with feedback on the proposed 2025 Winter Timetable in preparation to formulating this response.

FONB strongly opposes the proposed changes for the reasons detailed below, instead recommending that the current timetable which has been in place since October 2023 remain in place.

The Bruny Island Ferry allows passenger vehicles and freight to travel between Bruny Island and Kettering. According to [Transport Tasmania](#) the service aims to 'meet the needs of Bruny Island residents as well as the increasing demand of the growing visitor economy on the island'. It is our strong belief that the timetable changes have been structured to focus primarily on the needs of visitors rather than the requirements of residents and landowners. This is counter to the Community Service Obligation Transport Tasmania has to support the residents and landowners through, what it describes, as a 'key link between Bruny Island and the Tasmanian mainland'. In reality it is the only public means of access; it is critical infrastructure that needs to be maintained and be readily available.

The reduction of services in the morning, including weekends, and the cessation of the 7 p.m. ferry from Kettering to Robert's Point, impacts adversely on residents' employment, education and civic obligations, effecting their ability to participate and contribute to the wider Tasmanian community. Those members who commute to Kingston or Hobart, and those whose children travel to school off

Bruny spoke of the difficulties the proposed winter timetable will present them in arriving at work and school on time and being able to take part in other activities.

Cutting the number of crossings to the extent indicated in the late morning/early afternoon will leave residents and landowners with fewer opportunities to travel for essential services and social connectivity. Reducing the number of crossings could lead to isolation, stress and a reduced quality of life for those who depend on the ferry.

While visitor numbers are not as significant in the winter months, current trends indicate that Bruny remains an attractive destination. It is also observable that many tourists are arriving later in the day with the intention of a quick trip to take in the Instagram highlights. We are concerned that unexpected demand may extend a 40-minute to an 80-minute wait which is unacceptable. This could in part be alleviated by the introduction of a resident/landowner priority system

The needs of those services, industries and individuals who support the residents and landowners of Bruny Island also need to be taken into consideration, both to maximise efficiency and to minimise costs. Travel time and ferry costs are routinely added to any service offered by a non-Bruny based business. Long wait times caused by reduced sailings will only exacerbate this issue.

The introduction of the proposed winter timetable has been done following a deeply flawed consultation process which seems to have been limited to speaking to selected members of the Bruny Island Ferry Reference Group (BIFG). As the ferry service is operated by SeaLink under contract to the Tasmanian Transport Commission it would seem plausible that SeaLink is bound by the [Tasmanian Government Framework for Community Engagement](#). The principles and standards in this document which include open communication, transparency and community understanding, have clearly not been addressed. Moving forward the skills and local knowledge of the Reference Group should be maximised to ensure solutions which meet the need of residents, landowners and visitors are developed.

FONB Members who contacted us spoke highly of the current level of service operated by SeaLink, 'The joy of more frequent ferries in recent years has allowed less tight organization and stress to managing my life'. Let us work collaboratively to find an effective solution to the Winter Timetable issue which maintains that good relationship between SeaLink and Bruny Islanders.

Yours sincerely



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Copy to:

The Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP, Premier of Tasmania

The Hon Eric Abetz, Minister for Transport, Member for Franklin

The Hon Jacqui Petrusma MP, Member for Franklin

Nic Street MP, Member for Franklin

The Hon Dean Winter MP, Leader of the Opposition, Member for Franklin

Dr Rosalie Woodruff MP, Leader of the Greens, Member for Franklin

David O'Byrne MP, Member for Franklin

Meg Brown, MP, Member for Franklin

The Hon Kerry Vincent MP, Minister for Infrastructure

Craig Limkin, Secretary of the Department of State Growth

Cynthia Heydon, Deputy Secretary. Transport

Tammy Price, President, Bruny Island Community Association (BICA)

Dave Stewart, CEO Kingborough Council