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Wednesday, 2 April 2025

Jan Richards AM Chair - Friends of North <u>Brunyfriendsofnorthbruny@gmail.com</u>

Dear Jan,

Thank you for your letter dated 31 March 2025 regarding the proposed Winter Timetable for the Bruny Island Ferry service. We appreciate the time and effort taken by Friends of North Bruny (FONB) to gather feedback from its members and for sharing their perspectives with us.

At SeaLink, we recognise the ferry as a critical lifeline for Bruny Island residents, businesses, and visitors alike. We are committed to balancing the needs of all stakeholders while ensuring the ongoing viability and sustainability of the service.

The Transport Commission requested SeaLink explore introducing an optimised winter timetable reflecting the reduced off-peak season demand. SeaLink then developed the timetable based on passenger data and operational insights, and submitted it for approval to the Transport Commission.

The proposed changes to the Winter Timetable were developed following a detailed analysis of passenger demand, operational costs, and overall service efficiency during the winter months. While we acknowledge the concerns raised by FONB, particularly around reduced morning and late-evening crossings, these adjustments are necessary to maintain the long-term feasibility of the service given seasonal variations in usage.

That said, we take community feedback seriously, and we are open to exploring potential refinements to the schedule that may help mitigate some of the challenges outlined in your letter.

We acknowledge the importance of thorough consultation and will take steps to ensure that future timetable changes incorporate wider community input. We are currently working with the Bruny Island Ferry Reference Group to try and address some of the concerns raised.

We appreciate the positive feedback regarding the current service levels and remain committed to delivering a reliable and efficient ferry operation for Bruny Island. Please feel free to reach out to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Tamlyn General Manager SeaLink Bruny Island

