

**ITEM MAYORAL MINUTE - PROPOSED CHANGES TO
FERRY SERVICES**

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

I would like to make Council aware of a number of proposed changes to the timetables for the Parramatta River ferry services that will have a detrimental effect on our community.

Council has four wharves served by public ferry services which currently provide access between our suburbs and Circular Quay. Council would be aware that Circular Quay is Sydney's primary international passenger shipping port, an iconic tourism precinct and heritage area, and one of Sydney's central public transport nodes.

The proposed changes will remove the direct link between Abbotsford, Cabarita, Chiswick and Drummoyne wharves with Circular Quay, significantly disrupting commutes and creating unnecessary bottlenecks at Balmain East for our residents who will now need to change ferries to travel into the centre of the city.

I have also heard from parents of schoolchildren who travel to wharves beyond Circular Quay and grandparents who take their family to Taronga Zoo or Manly. These trips will now include at least two separate connections which is unacceptable for these families.

I have major concerns that this unnecessary and damaging proposal will discourage the use of our public ferries – increasing the reliance on private vehicles, further clogging our local streets and impacting on our targets for community emission reductions.

For our community, the trip from any of our local wharves into Circular Quay is not only an iconic journey, it is one that provides a vital connection to work or leisure that should not be taken away by the private ferry service operators contracted by the State Government.

I will be raising these concerns with the Minister for Transport and our Local MP.

I urge City of Canada Bay residents to join me and voice your concerns on these damaging changes by visiting yoursay.transdev.com.au/f3-parramatta-river-route.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council's communications team promote the online engagement, referred to above, to residents to ensure our community is represented.

2. THAT the Mayor write to the NSW Minister for Transport Andrew Constance, NSW Shadow Minister for Transport Chris Minns, John Sidoti MP, and NSW Greens Transport spokesperson Abigail Boyd MP urging that the State Government reconsider any changes to the Parramatta River Ferry service that would sever the direct transport connection between our local public wharves and Circular Quay.

