



Media Release

David Campbell MP

Minister for Transport

Minister for the Illawarra

CALLS FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR MANLY FAST SERVICE

Embargoed until 5am Tuesday 9 December 2008

Minister for Transport David Campbell today called for expressions of interest from private ferry operators to run high speed services between Manly and Circular Quay.

Mr Campbell said the Manly JetCats would finish operating on 31 December 2008 and expressions of interest had been called to determine whether a new high speed Manly ferry service can be established on a fully commercial basis.

"The Government is interested to see if there are any private operators who can provide the service and if so we'll be looking to award a contract on 24 December 2008," Mr Campbell said.

"This allows sufficient time for the service to be up and running by 12 January 2009.

"We have had discussions with one particular private operator to provide a fully commercial high speed service already, but we're encouraging other interested operators to make themselves known.

"This is a classic market equation, if we have the demand necessary for a privately operated commercial ferry service, the Government will be behind it 100%.

"The Manly community has showed a strong interest in maintaining a high speed service to the peninsula and the community organisation Fix Our Ferry Group has also indicated that they are willing to provide further insight on community expectations to any interested operator.

"Regular Manly Ferry services will continue to operate, ensuring passengers will have access to regular services on the Freshwater vessel."

Mr Campbell said the arrangements for a new high-speed Manly ferry operator would be on an interim basis in the first instance until the outcome of the broader Sydney Ferries Market Review process was known. The arrangements will therefore be reviewed in March 2010.

The Ministry of Transport is also working with Sydney Ferries to review the Manly ferry timetable to ensure that regular passengers can be accommodated on the Freshwater vessels.

Mr Campbell said that interested operators should refer to the Government's e-tendering website for further information.

Expressions of interest for the new Manly fast service close on Friday 19 December 2008.