

Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery

Minister for Business Precincts

Minister for Public Transport

Minister for Roads and Road Safety



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WELCOME EXTENSION FOR PORTARLINGTON FERRY TRIAL

The Andrews Labor Government is extending its support of the Portarlington to Docklands ferry service ensuring this popular travel route to the Bellarine Peninsula for tourists and commuters continues for another year.

Launched in May 2017 at its pre-Covid peak in 2019 the service attracted almost 110,000 users, with a high of more than 15,000 passengers in January. Although most popular throughout the summer, the service still attracts thousands of passengers during the colder months.

The extension of the trial means people regularly commuting to work are able to continue accessing the weekday services to the city which are helping support the return to office working.

Day-trippers will especially welcome access to the service throughout the summer months, including the Christmas school holidays, when tourist numbers swell across the Bellarine.

The Labor Government's investment of more than \$1.34 million into the continuation of the Portarlington to Docklands Ferry was funded as part of the last state Budget.

With use of the service is starting to return to pre-pandemic levels, the 12-month extension to the trial through to 30 June 2023 will enable a better assessment of longer-term options.

This latest funding support comes as works have just been completed at Portarlington Harbour as part of the Labor Government's \$24 million Piers and Jetties Stimulus Package.

Improvements included an all-weather access from the foreshore to the ferry service, a strengthened pier head to enable vehicle access for the aquaculture industry and emergency response, and a new more accessible low landing for improved water access.

Quotes attributable to Public Transport Minister Ben Carroll

"We're investing in local communities and supporting local jobs by investing in better transport links to the Bellarine Peninsula and around our state."

"Extending the Ferry trial will be welcome news to the tens of thousands of visitors and locals who accessing this convenient link whether for work or holidays."

Quotes attributable to Member for Bellarine Lisa Neville

"We've upgraded Portarlington Harbour and improved transport links to the Bellarine Peninsula, providing significant economic and recreational benefits to local industry and the community."

"This is another significant investment in our community helping the Peninsula retain its reputation as a great place to live, work or visit."

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