

# Media Release

**The Hon Jacinta Allan MP**  
Minister for Public Transport  
Minister for Major Projects



Friday, 23 June, 2017

## **MORE ISLAND SERVICES WITH NEW FERRY**

The Andrews Labor Government is delivering more frequent, reliable ferry services between the mainland and French and Phillip Islands.

Minister for Public Transport Jacinta Allan announced today that Searoad Ferries (trading as Western Port Ferries) has been awarded the contract to run the Western Port Ferry Service between French Island, Phillip Island and Stony Point.

The new contract will boost the number of services by more than 30 per cent, including a new daily service directly from Stony Point to Phillip Island.

The additional services will start in September and coincide with the introduction of a brand new vessel to the route, which has capacity for 95 passengers and better luggage storage.

Searoad Ferries is a well-established ferry operator, who also run the car ferry service between Queenscliff and Sorrento. They have been contracted to run the service for five years from 1 July 2017.

The Western Port Ferry Service currently carries around 32,000 passengers a year, with that number expected to rise under the new operator.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Public Transport Jacinta Allan**

*"We're making sure locals have more reliable and regular services from French Island, Phillip Island and Stony Point."*

*"This boost to services is not only good for local residents, but also for the thousands of visitors to these islands each year."*

### **Quotes attributable to Searoad Ferries CEO Matt McDonald**

*"This is an exciting opportunity for Searoad Ferries. We look forward to providing a safe and reliable service that meets the needs of the local communities through our new Western Port Ferries operation."*