

Minister for Housing and Planning
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for Local Government

Level 10, 15 Murray Street, HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Email: Minister.Vincent@dpac.tas.gov.au



12 JUN 2026

Mr Peter George MP
Parliament House, Hobart, TAS 7000

C/- haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au


Dear Mr George

In the House of Assembly on 15 April 2026, you asked the following question:

My question comes from Julianne Greene in Howrah, who regularly commutes by ferry. Julianne reports that since the government made public transport free, demand for the ferry has increased. Once the ferry has reached capacity, many people are left stranded and waiting 40 to 80 minutes for the ferry to arrive. Given the ever-growing demand, will you commit to increasing the ferry service to every 20 minutes during peak times, so that commuters are not left stranded at the ferry terminal?

Preliminary data from Derwent Ferries indicates patronage is up approximately 20 per cent since the start of free fares. I'm sure you agree this is a fantastic outcome.

Since the commencement of the fare free travel period, the Department of State Growth informs me there were five occasions across four dates where some passengers were unable to board. The approximate number of passengers unable to board is outlined below:

- Tuesday, 31 March, 5:10pm from Brooke Steet Pier – 20 passengers
- Friday, 1 April, 5:10pm from Brooke Street Pier – 50 passengers
- Wednesday 15 April, 7:40am and 8:20am from Bellerive – approximately 15 passengers in total
- Thursday 16 April, 7:40am from Bellerive – fewer than 10 passengers.

In each instance, passengers could choose to wait for the next available ferry service in 40 minutes or catch a bus.

Increasing service frequency would require a second vessel, and since there have so few instances where current service is unable to accommodate current demand, there is not enough patronage at this time to justify additional frequencies.

State Growth has met with the ferry operator to discuss this matter. The ferry operator advised the second ferry option would be a costly approach to address this issue and advised it is happy to work with State Growth to determine if some schedule adjustments can be made to better accommodate users of the service.

In the very limited instances where there is insufficient space on a ferry, bus stops are around 400m from ferry terminals: towards Hobart from the stop on Cambridge Road opposite Milford Lane, and towards Bellerive from Hobart Interchange Elizabeth Street Stop A3. These buses depart every 10 minutes during peak periods on weekdays.

Thank you for your question and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Vincent', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport