



April 10, 2023

The Honorable Jo Haylen
MP, Minister for Transport

The Honorable Penny Sharpe
MLC, Minister for the Environment

The Honorable Daniel Mookhey
MLC, Treasurer

Subject: New Sydney ferry fleet Should Be Electric

Dear Honorable Premier Haylen, Sharpe, Mookhey

On behalf Pacific Environment, we want to take the opportunity to congratulate you on your successful win in the election. We are writing to urge New South Wales to transition to electric ferries, starting with the Parramatta ferries. In a decade of climate emergency, we cannot continue relying on dirty diesel technologies.

Pacific Environment is a 501(c)(3) public-benefit corporation, headquartered in San Francisco, with regional offices in Anchorage, Alaska, and Chongqing, China. Pacific Environment has earned rare permanent consultative status at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations' entity that sets international shipping law. At the IMO, Pacific Environment has played a lead role in advocating for a new international regulatory regime (called the "Polar Code") to regulate ship traffic, pollutant emissions, and waste dumping in Arctic waters.

We are living in a time where the world is rapidly decarbonizing, and we need to act now to address the climate crisis. Sustainable transportation has a crucial role in the fight against climate change, with shipping accounting for 2 to 3 percent of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions. While the rest of the world is transitioning to electric passenger ferries, it is disappointing to see Sydney renewing its commitment to diesel ferries.

Last year, California adopted the first in the nation standard for zero emission ferries that Pacific Environment helped supported. The California Air Resources Board's Commercial Harborcraft regulation require **short run ferries (routes under 3 nautical miles) to be 100% zero emissions starting January 1, 2026** and include other provisions that compel the transition to zero emission ferries.

And just last month, the Singapore Senior Minister of State for Transport Mr. Chee Hong Tat announced at the Ministry of Transport Committee of Supply Debate that: **"From 2030, new harbor craft operating in our port waters must be fully electric, be capable of using B100 biofuels, or be compatible with net zero fuels such as hydrogen."**

Ferries have become one of the pioneering vessel types for zero-emission battery deployment because they combine generally shorter routes with regular port visits. The shorter routes

allow installation of battery packs that can fully power the vessels on their journeys while the predictable routes and turnaround times enable efficient deployment of shoreside charging infrastructure. From small to large, most ferry boats and routes can be electrified. Moreover, the initial investment in electric ferries is offset by much lower fuel and maintenance costs.

We urge you to reconsider your predecessors' decision and transition to electric ferries, starting immediately with the Parramatta ferry. Other world cities, such as Auckland, Wellington, New York, Stockholm, San Francisco, Stavanger, Hong Kong, and Halifax, are already electrifying their passenger ferries.

We hope you will take immediate action and demonstrate your commitment to a sustainable and prosperous future for New South Wales by requiring the Parramatta River ferries be electric.

Thank you for your consideration. We would be pleased to answer any questions or provide further information.

Sincerely,

Madeline Rose

Madeline Rose
Climate Campaign Director
Pacific Environment