



The Hon John Robertson MLC
Minister for Transport
Minister for the Central Coast

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Mr Tim Ayres
State Secretary
Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU)
PO Box 167
GRANVILLE NSW 2142


Dear Mr Ayres

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of the AMWU concerning the procurement of six replacement vessels for Sydney Ferries.

NSW Government procurement policy recognises that value for money includes broader economic benefit and is not limited to the lowest price. Substantial economic benefits flow from buying Australian or New Zealand goods and services and from maximising the opportunities for local industry to compete for Government business on a value for money basis.

I confirm that NSW Government procurement policy, including the Local Jobs First Plan, will apply to this project. As a result, the issues raised by the AMWU will be specifically considered in finalising the detail of the procurement.

Feedback from industry, gathered as part of the Registrations of Interest process, will also be considered. Transport NSW advises that a total of 29 companies responded to this initial stage of the procurement process, with the majority of respondents having a New South Wales presence.

On the issue of consultation, I can assure you that Sydney Ferries staff will be involved in the development of vessel specifications. Transport NSW advises that formal consultation processes involving staff and union representatives will be established to ensure the experience and knowledge of those involved in the operation and maintenance of the existing fleet is taken into consideration.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely


John Robertson MLC
Minister for Transport
Minister for the Central Coast

17/1/11