



Wharf Access Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Provide consistent and transparent arrangements for commercial vessel operators seeking to use the network of commuter and charter wharves in Sydney Harbour and its tributaries;
- Ensure that public transport services provided under contract to Transport for NSW (TfNSW) are provided priority access to the wharves to deliver timetabled services.

Scope

This policy applies to all commuter and charter wharves in Sydney Harbour and its tributaries and any commercial vessel using those wharves.

Objective

The objectives of this wharf access policy are to:

- Facilitate increased transport options for customers.
- Promote increased use of wharf infrastructure by allocating capacity effectively and equitably.
- Enable Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) to perform its role as wharf owner and maintainer in a financially viable way.
- Ensure wharf access arrangements are widely accepted and easily understood by industry and other stakeholders.

Wharf access arrangements for Sydney Ferries services

The operator of Sydney Ferries services will be provided exclusive access to Circular Quay Wharves 2B, 3, 4, 5, King Street Wharf 3 and the western side of Manly Wharf.

Future access arrangements to the proposed new ferry terminal at Barangaroo will be determined once the size of the terminal and operational requirements of Sydney Ferries are identified.

Sydney Ferries services will be given priority access at all other commuter wharves on Sydney Harbour.

Wharf access arrangements for other operators

Other commercial vessel operators can access the wharves listed in Schedule 1 using either the relevant Commuter Wharf Permit, Commuter Wharf Voucher or the Charter Wharf Booking System.

No exclusive wharf access arrangements will be entered into with any other commercial vessel operator.

Access to King Street Wharves 1, 2, 4 and 5 at Darling Harbour will continue to be offered under long term leasing arrangements with RMS in accordance with RMS' Maritime Property Policies.

RMS may impose a maximum tonnage limit and/or a maximum vessel length limit for various wharves in the network. Operators will be advised of any applicable limits.

Commuter Wharf Permit

- A Commuter Wharf Permit is intended for intensive users and ferry operators.
- A Commuter Wharf Permit may cover one or more commercial vessels used by a commercial vessel operator and may be issued for 6 or 12 months.
- Conditions may be applied to a Commuter Wharf Permit, for example, access to a particular wharf may be restricted to particular times of day to protect access for timetabled services.
- Fees for a Commuter Wharf Permit are based on passenger carrying capacity and are set out in Schedule 2.
- There are two Permit categories – Regular Use (small vessel) and Regular Use (large vessel).
- A Permit does not provide a booking to use a wharf at a particular time and date, rather it allows a vessel to pick up and drop off passengers on a “touch and go” basis with berthing times limited to five minutes.
- Timetabled services have priority access over other wharf users. Contracted timetabled services have priority over non-contracted timetabled services. The master of the non-priority vessel is responsible for giving way. Failure to give priority (i.e., to stand off a wharf or vacate a wharf on approach of a timetabled service) may result in penalty, including but not limited to suspension or cancellation of permit or voucher and/or refusal to issue further access provision.
- Permit holders will be provided with details of timetabled services.
- Operators of timetabled services will be provided opportunities to post information about their services at the wharves (for example, timetables). However, the provision of information to Sydney Ferries customers will take primacy.

Commuter Wharf Voucher

- Less frequent or ad hoc wharf users can pre-purchase a 10-berth Commuter Wharf Voucher. Voucher books are issued for a particular vessel.
- A Commuter Wharf Voucher allows an operator to access the Commuter Wharf Network up to 10 times and is intended for use by occasional or ad-hoc Commuter Wharf users.

- Operators are responsible for carrying their voucher (or a copy) onboard and reporting their voucher usage to RMS. Failure to notify RMS of use of a Commuter Wharf may result in substantial penalties.
- Operators may obtain as many Vouchers as they wish.
- The same conditions applicable to Permits are applicable to Vouchers; i.e. a Voucher does not provide a booking to use a wharf at a particular time and date, rather it allows a vessel to pick up and drop off passengers on a “touch and go” basis with berthing times limited to five minutes.
- The Voucher is valid for a period of 12 months from purchase, is non-transferrable and is not refundable.

Charter Wharf Booking System

Operators must have a booking on the Charter Wharf Booking System to use the charter wharves listed in Schedule 1 in accordance with fees set out in Schedule 2.

- A booking allows a vessel to use a wharf to load and unload passengers at a specified time and day.
- Priority will be given to operators with existing bulk bookings, with other applications processed in order of receipt.
- RMS may also determine that access to some Commuter Wharves at certain times of the day may be via the Charter Wharf Booking System

Arrangements for use of Circular Quay Wharf 6 and Manly Wharf East

In April 2015, TfNSW entered into a service contract with a private operator to provide a high-speed regular ferry service between Circular Quay Wharf 6 and Manly Wharf East.

Under Section 6 of the Passenger Transport Regulation 2014, no other operator is able to provide a regular ferry service between any wharf in Manly and any wharf in Circular Quay with the exception of the operator of Sydney Ferries services (unless the service is a tourist service taking over 30 minutes to make the journey).

As an interim arrangement, slots available at Manly Wharf East that are not subject to the high-speed ferry service contract are available on the Charter Wharf Booking System. Operators seeking to use Manly Wharf East must first contact RMS to arrange for training in the use of the hydraulic system. Any need to establish long term access arrangements for these slots will be considered in accordance with market demand and awarded through a competitive process.

Schedule 1

Wharves included in Wharf Access Policy

Commuter Wharves	
Watsons Bay	Huntleys Point
Rose Bay	Woolwich
Double Bay	Hunters Hill
Darling Point	Longueville
Darling Harbour (Aquarium)*	Northwood
Pyrmont Bay*	Greenwich
Balmain East	Greenwich Point
Balmain	McMahons Point
Birchgrove	Milsons Point
Balmain West	Kirribilli (Jeffrey St)
Birkenhead	Kirribilli (Beulah St)
Drummoyne	Kirribilli (Holbrook Ave)
Chiswick	North Sydney
Abbotsford	Neutral Bay
Bayview Park	Kurraba Point
Cabarita	Cremorne Point
Sydney Olympic Park	Old Cremorne
Parramatta (Operator of Sydney Ferries only)	South Mosman
Rydalmere (Operator of Sydney Ferries only)	Mosman Bay
Meadowbank	Taronga Zoo
Kissing Point	

* At times when the wharf is not used for timetabled services RMS may determine that access can only be obtained through the Charter Wharf Booking System

Charter Wharves	
Man O'War	Walsh Bay 2 Pontoon
Eastern Pontoon	Towns Place
Harbour Master's Steps	King Street 6
Commissioner's Steps	King Street 7
Campbell's Cove	King Street 8
Ives Steps	King Street 9
Casino	Pier 26 Wharf 2
	Manly Hotel Wharf** (not available for scheduled services)

** Also known as Manly Timber Wharf/Fun Pier

Schedule 2

Commuter Wharf Fees

Regular usage permits:

Permit category	Vessel Pax capacity	Number of touches	Fee
Regular Use (small vessel)	Up to 50	Unlimited	\$300 per year \$150 per 6 months
Regular Use (large vessel)	51 +	Unlimited	\$40,000 per year \$20,000 per 6 months

- 'Pax capacity' is the maximum passenger capacity of the vessel for smooth water operations as expressed on its Survey Certificate.
- For an operator with multiple vessels, the permit fee will be based on the largest maximum capacity in their fleet.
- The Regular Use (small vessel) fee acknowledges that these vessels have minimal impact on wharf maintenance costs.
- The Regular Use (large vessel) fee is based on a berthing rate of \$8 per berth and notional 5000 berths per annum (approx. 100 per week).
- 6 month permits are available recognising the seasonal nature of some operations.

Occasional use vouchers:

Vessel Pax capacity	Price - Voucher Book of 10
Up to 80	\$110
81 – 150	\$220
151 +	\$330

Wharf Booking System Fees

Vessel Pax capacity	Slot cost	
	Bulk	Single
Up to 80	\$11.10	\$15.80
81 - 150	\$22.10	\$31.50
151 +	\$33.10	\$47.30

- Price per slot.
- All prices include GST