

Spencer Gulf Ferry Service to be temporarily suspended.

South Australian ferry company Sea SA Pty Ltd, has announced a *temporary* closure of the Spencer Gulf Ferry service, until economic growth signals in both tourism and mining activities are evident. "Aurora V" will undertake her last voyage on Sunday 31st August.

Managing Director, Stephanie Dawson, said that the company has cited a disappointing past 12 months in tourism traffic as a direct result of the flattening economy in South Australia, as the reason for the suspension, however, a new purpose built vessel will be introduced to take over the Wallaroo to Lucky Bay ferry service in late 2015.

Sea SA Pty Ltd is committed to developing the ferry service as the central highway in South Australia, linking both the Eyre and Yorke Peninsula's and will seek agreement with the state government on future tourism marketing and heavy vehicle access prior to the new vessel launching.

SeaSA has undertaken 6,930 voyages, carried 300,000 passengers and 140,000 vehicles of all shapes and sizes over the past seven years. The support of the travelling public as well as local Councils and businesses on both sides is valued, with the company still committed to improving the service into the future.

Sea SA Pty Ltd has recently commenced the construction of a more modern Sea Transport design catamaran, which has a larger hull, but reduced passenger capacity to contain crew numbers and ensure the vessel's future viability. The new vessel will incorporate full disabled access accommodation on the vehicle deck, without the need for a lift, as well as improved sea-keeping to minimize motion sickness. Fully air conditioned passenger facilities, together with a licenced café, TV's, kids corral and comfortable seating is also incorporated into this ultra-modern design.

"Major capital expenditure on the harbours and berths at Lucky Bay and Wallaroo will be undertaken during the suspension of the ferry service, to improve access for the future recommencement" said Ms Dawson. "In this regard we will have an active site office at Lucky Bay".

Sea SA Pty Ltd will develop their SeaSA Getaways package holiday division over the coming months, so a presence will be maintained at the Wallaroo office.

Ms Dawson added "we take this opportunity to thank all of our loyal customers, tourism operators and supporters over the past seven years. We also thank our dedicated crew and staff both at Wallaroo and Lucky Bay for their continued belief in us and look forward to resuming the service later in 2015".

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