



*Travel Group*

May 13th, 2008

## **HIGHER FUEL COSTS LEAD TO**

### **SEALINK FARE RISE**

Soaring international fuel costs have forced the SeaLink Travel Group to raise its ferry fares between Kangaroo Island and the mainland.

From June 1 this year, the adult fare will rise by \$3 a crossing to \$43, children by \$2 to \$24 and student fares by \$3 to \$36.

SeaLink's Chief Executive, Mr Jeff Ellison, said the price rises were a direct response to the soaring cost of diesel resulting from the international cost of crude oil.

"In April 2007, we were paying \$1.14 a litre for diesel. In March this year, we were paying \$1.36 and in April \$1.50 a litre," he said.

"Earlier this month, the price of crude oil hit a record US\$119 a barrel and this will be reflected in higher fuel costs in the future.

"We use over 3 million litres of diesel a year, so any rise in fuel costs has a significant impact on our costs. We have been carrying the higher fuel costs for some months now and despite introducing new operating procedures to minimise fuel use, we cannot continue without affecting our excellent levels of service."

"This is our first price increase since April 2007."

Mr Ellison said changes SeaLink had introduced to save fuel included slowing the ferry for non-peak services, adding less than two minutes to the voyage time but saving about \$10,000 a month in diesel, and using mains electricity where possible instead of power generated by ferry engines.

Savings were also being examined for SeaLink's coach fleet and across other areas of the company's operations.

"We are continuing to examine our operations to see what else we can do, but it appears high fuel costs are here to stay," he said.

Mr Ellison said that vehicle fares would also increase from \$81 per crossing for a standard size vehicle to \$84.

Bookings made online will continue to attract a discount of \$4 per person and \$8 per vehicle when a return booking is made.

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### **Further Information:**

**Jeff Ellison**

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### **The SeaLink Travel Group incorporates:**

Adelaide Sightseeing • Australian Holiday Centres Sydney and Melbourne • City Centre Travel • KI Adventure Tours  
Kangaroo Island Booking Centre • Kangaroo Island SeaLink • SeaLink New Zealand • FreightLink • The Ski Connection • Travellink  
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