



# Robyn Preston MP

Member for Hawkesbury  
Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly

# Damien Tudehope MLC

Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations

# Natalie Ward MLC

Shadow Minister for Transport and Roads

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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16 February 2024

### **FIX HAWKESBURY'S FERRY DEBACLE NOW!**

Fed up residents have met today to demand action to stop the rolling strikes on Hawkesbury ferries by the Maritime Union of Australia.

Ferry workers are striking with minimal notice. The cancelled services on Monday 19 February 2024 will last for 24 hours at Wisemans Ferry, Webbs Creek and Sackville and are causing the community to drive up to an extra five hours a day on winding, remote roads. The Lower Portland Ferry is also out of operation, due to maintenance.

Community members are missing medical appointments, school and sporting activities will be missed, businesses are reporting significant losses and tradies can't reach their customers.

Member for Hawkesbury, Robyn Preston MP said, "Every day I am getting feedback from residents and businesses hurt by these strikes. They are at their wits end. There seems to be no regard for the communities that rely on these ferry services."

"It isn't good enough that residents are being held to ransom. I am very concerned that emergency services are being delayed during time-critical incidents. Police, fire and ambulance cannot be kept waiting for a ferry service to resume operation."

Transport Minister, Jo Haylen, needs to resolve this stand-off. For the first time in many years, people are bearing the brunt of industrial action, which is unheard of in the valley."

Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations, Damien Tudehope, slammed the Minns Labor Government for their inaction in the face of a strike.

"The Premier has to fix this ferry fiasco. He needs to pull his union mates into line and help keep these vital community services operating," Mr Tudehope said.

Shadow Minister for Transport and Roads, Natalie Ward said, "The Hawkesbury ferry routes are undeniably an essential service for the local community, with no alternative options if union industrial actions stop them operating. Workers miss out, school kids miss out and families miss out. It is unbelievable that this has escalated to this point without Ministerial intervention. It is just another example of Labor Ministers refusing to stand up to their union mates' demands while customers suffer."