

SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST  
27 MAY 1992

## Big rise for ferry, tunnel fares

By PAUL GODFREY

FERRY travellers will have to pay nearly 16 per cent more from July while Cross Harbour Tunnel drivers could be paying double if recommendations made yesterday by the Transport Advisory Committee (TAC) are endorsed by the Government.

The committee asked the Executive Council to allow the Hongkong Ferry Company to raise its fares by an average of about 15.8 per cent, the company's first in-

crease since November 1990, but not before revising the figure down from the 16.1 per cent applied for.

Committee chairman Professor Leung Chi-keung pointed out that the increases, which will vary according to the route with commuters faring the best and day-trippers worst, were less than 18 per cent inflation which had accrued since the company's last increase.

"We feel this level of increases is fair given the

length of time since the company's last fare rises and taking into account proposed improvements to services and conscious efforts by the company to cut costs," he said.

Professor Leung said the committee had been impressed by savings made by axing loss-making routes, improving the scheduling of inner harbour services, and generating more "non-farebox revenue" through advertising.

The committee also wel-

comed Hongkong Ferry's plan to introduce half price concessionary fares for the over-65s travelling during off peak hours on weekdays.

Increasing the tunnel tax for the Cross Harbour Tunnel by \$10 in an effort to curb severe congestion at both ends of the tunnel, was approved in principle.

However, the TAC has urged the anticipated proceeds, up to an extra \$1.23 million a day, be ploughed back into other traffic improvement projects.