



MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO ROAD TOLLING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8 December 2016

Yesterday, an Upper House Committee established an inquiry into road tolling in New South Wales.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2 is going to undertake a thorough examination of road tolling in this state. Tolling has become a major feature of the road network across Sydney. However, there has not been a comprehensive examination of this method of developing, building and operating such important pieces of infrastructure. Nor has there ever been an opportunity for the public to be informed in detail about a number of key aspects of these valuable assets.

Tolls are currently imposed on road users who drive on the M2, M5, M7, Cross City Tunnel, Eastern Distributor, Sydney Harbour Bridge and Tunnel and the Lane Cove Tunnel. The M4 will also be a toll road from mid-2017. Tolls will also apply on NorthConnex when it opens in 2019.

The Hon. Greg Donnelly MLC, Committee Chair said: “When you think about it, it is extraordinary that given the vast amounts of money that people are paying in road tolls day in and day out, there is such little information and detail on the public record about how tolling arrangements are initiated, entered into and varied over time. Moreover, the rationale and justification for the setting and increasing of tolls is anything but transparent”.

“There is also the further concern arising from the building and operation of roads that are tolled where there is little or no competitive process associated with their development. The lack of or indeed absence of competitive market tensions, to produce the best possible outcome for those who use toll roads and the public at large, is something that deserves particular attention”.

The committee will also examine the appropriateness of involving the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in the determination of tolls and their escalations. There will also be the examination of road tolling arrangements in overseas jurisdictions to see if there are lessons to learn for New South Wales.

Submissions are being accepted until 28 February 2017. For further information about the inquiry, including its terms of reference (copy attached), and information about how to make a submission, please visit the committee’s website: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc2.



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*For further comment please contact the Hon. Greg Donnelly MLC
Committee Chair, on 9230 2280.*