

INQUIRY INTO ROAD TOLLING

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 17 February 2017

Partially
Confidential

Dear Committee (assessing the tolling of the M4),

As a resident in Western Sydney, the re-tolling of the M4 is of great concern (above and beyond the impacts of tolls on any other motorway). I understand the need to fund these types of significant infrastructure projects. I absolutely welcome the expansion and extension of the M4, as its bottlenecks and reliance on Parramatta Road to complete the connection into the city has been the cause of significant traffic and delays in accessing the city from the West.

There is a significant need to create better accessibility of the city from the outer suburbs to enable some de-centralisation of the population and increase the live-ability in Sydney. Western Sydney is the third largest economy in the country and 1 in 11 Australians come from the region. It will be an ever increasing region, in terms of significance, to the country and to Sydney as a whole.

At present, a large proportion of the employment and entertainment for Western Sydney residents resides in Sydney City. As such, cost-effective access to Sydney City is essential to us. The public transport from the Western Suburbs into the city is quite good but as we move outside of typical work hours, it becomes very infrequent and extends travel times by 30mins to an hour. Driving into the city on a work day or on the weekends at present is already difficult with parking costs being quite high. The cost of the tolls will add to the difficulty for a number of family's (quite typically from a low socio-economic background in Western Sydney) to access necessary services, jobs, and cultural activities that would raise them out of the low-socio economic demographic.

There needs to be some consideration, and potentially re-imbursement of the M4 costs for residents in suburbs that extend from Parramatta onwards out to Greater Western Sydney.

Happy to further discuss my thoughts with the committee if they have any questions.

Kind regards