

INQUIRY INTO ROAD TOLLING

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

There was a promise made of no more tolls on the M 4. People in Western Sydney are disadvantaged by distance needed to travel to get to work, services etc that people living closer to Sydney take as their right. Cost of transport is already higher if you look at petrol, tyres. And wear and tear on car. Public transport is also greater cost because of distance. The train service is slower out here now than it was in the 1950's, because infrastructure has not been invested to maintain and improve capacity. My children travel over three hours each day getting to and from work. This adds extra stress to families. People live out here because it is where they can afford, and they have to live with the prejudice of government and wealthier people who look down on them. They are going to be harder hit by loss of penalty rates for weekend work. Lots of single parent families live out here and lots of those will be affected by both loss of penalty rates and tolls. Many families have members with disabilities who are often facing cuts in benefits that cannot be accommodated in budgets that already stretch too thin. Children already suffer because of poverty out here and you just want to make it worse. No compassion being shown. I see children come to school who have had no breakfast, no food for the day, inappropriately dressed for the weather, shoes falling apart. Parents in stress and they are blamed for their situation when they have tried but can't find any help or way out. How come you don't go after those wealthy people who won't pay their taxes but will discriminate against the poor, who have no option? You sold off so much that the public owned, yes owned to pay for these improvements. Some of these were making lots of money that was ongoing and is now lost and spent. Now you want more. Money has been mismanaged and millions have been spent inappropriately. Previously we the citizens have paid for construction of these toll ways and then they are sold for less than they are worth and we pay again for tolls that line your friends pockets. This has got to stop. You need to be held accountable. Stop the sell offs and ripping us off as well.