

INQUIRY INTO ROAD TOLLING

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I do not support tolls on any roads in the present situation where public and active transport options are inadequate.

I also do not support the ownership or operation of toll roads by the private sector. This can be done more efficiently by the government, with 100% of profits returned to the public. Current toll roads should be state operated. Future toll roads planned or under construction should be halted and ways to convert them to public transport be investigated.

Of course the present situation where many toll roads will have tolls that increase higher than inflation is unacceptable. The aim should be to reduce the tolls once the road is paid off.

The cost of transport to the user should more closely reflect the cost to society. At present however, for each dollar spent by a user on driving, an effective subsidy of around \$9 is provided. By contrast, when a user spends a dollar on public transport, they are only subsidised by \$1.50. By some accounts, walking actually saves society money, but it is hardly supported at all. (Ref: <http://movingforward.discoursemedia.org/costofcommute/>) These imbalances must be addressed.

Public and active transport infrastructure should be greatly improved. Public transport on commuter routes should be free of charge. Once adequate infrastructure is in place that significantly improves access, frequency, speed and comfort, a significant shift away from private motor vehicles will occur. This will reduce road congestion and obviate the need for toll roads.