

**Submission
No 114**

INQUIRY INTO ROAD TOLLING

Name: Mr John Seddon

Date received: 26 April 2017

Dear Sir,

I submit the following for your road toll committee's consideration:

As I am sure the committee is aware, the level of NSW tolls have mainly arisen from historic circumstances surrounding the building of different tollways. Road tolls have been established based, for example, on the length of private toll company contracts, varying construction cost, and estimates of future toll revenue, all of which prevailed at the time of building the tollways. Political interference has even caused NSW taxpayers to foot the bill for road users from pork barrelled community areas by eliminating tolls on certain tollways.

It is submitted that the historic toll criteria should be discarded as it is creating serious distortion and disadvantage to road users in varying parts of NSW who are being charged at toll rates which do not reflect an equality of the cost of road use and community amenity.

Instead the NSW government should introduce a universal basis of charging for the use of all tollways (e.g. Per kilometre) which it would centrally control, collect and manage. The NSW government would compensate private toll companies for their contracted payments for the use, construction and maintenance of tollways out to the pool of revenue collected for all tollways. The necessary NSW legislation will be needed to establish this government tollway control and management body, which may be seen by some as re-nationalisation of toll roads.

Inevitably the above will mean that users of tollways which currently have historically lower or no tolls (e.g. M1) compared to the "universal tolls" would pay for their use of those tollways. The fact that a tollway may be fully paid for, does not in my opinion mean there should be no toll for its use commensurate with other toll roads. Adopting this approach would also enable the NSW government to enhance its traffic planning and to fulfill its obligation for universal subsidies to disadvantage communities being service by new toll roads.

Yours faithfully,

John Seddon