

**Submission
No 43**

INQUIRY INTO ROAD TOLLING REGIMES

Name: Mr Keith Austin

Date Received: 21 June 2021

As a caravan owner living interstate (ACT), my wife and I regularly travel and holiday in NSW. On a number of recent trips we have travelled via the Sydney tollways to Northern NSW destinations using the M7/M5 Motorway to M2; M2 Eastbound to NorthConnex and the NorthConnex. We have returned using the same links in the opposite directions.

The cost of using these tollways when towing a caravan is the same as as a heavy commercial vehicle (i.e. B-Double).

Two examples, the M7 M5 Motorway to M2 Motorway is \$25.77 compared to \$9.09 when we are not towing our caravan. The NorthConnex Northbound is \$24.89 towing a caravan compared to \$8.66 when not towing. All up the cost of using the various tollways in both directions when towing a caravan is \$127.36 compared to \$44.72. A difference of \$82.64. Removing vehicle matching fees this difference is \$78.94 for a return trip.

In our case, the dual axle caravan we tow weighs 2760 kgs when fully laden. The fully laden combined weight of the 4WD tow vehicle and caravan (GCM) is 5550 kgs (5.55 tonnes). There is a flawed rationale for charging caravan and RV owners the same as a heavy commercial vehicle when the National Heavy Vehicle limit for B-doubles is 42.5 tonnes (with steer axle limits starting from 6.0 tonnes).

Caravan and RV owners contribute significantly to the local economy. Making tollways more equitable for caravan and RV owners ensures more visitors to the Northern NSW coastal regions.