

**Submission  
No 147**

## **INQUIRY INTO ROAD TOLLING REGIMES**

**Name:** Anne Stanley

**Date Received:** 9 July 2021

---



# ANNE STANLEY MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WERRIWA



9 July 2021

Ms Abigail Boyd MLC  
Transport and Customer Service Committee  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

## Inquiry into Road Tolling Regimes

Dear Ms Boyd MLC,

I write to make a submission to Legislative Council's Transport and Customer Service Committee inquiry into road tolling regimes.

As the Federal Member for Werriwa, many of my constituents have provided feedback to me about the costs of tolls and the financial strain it causes to their budgets.

This increased significantly after the introduction of the \$6.95 each-way toll on the M5 East.

Since it was opened in 2001, the M5 East has always been free for commuters. However, residents in and around my electorate of Werriwa are now paying tolls on a motorway that has not received any upgrades. This new toll is not eligible for the M5 cashback and is in addition to the existing toll on the M5 South West.

Research conducted by the UTS Transport Research Centre reported that *"Toll roads do not reduce congestion, despite claims to the contrary from the NSW Government."*

For a driver who uses the road five days a week, the increased cost of the M5 East is approximately \$3,300 a year. This will have to be absorbed into the already strained budgets for residents in my electorate. This toll will then continue to increase by 4% each year.

A constituent that lives in Hinchinbrook in my electorate, works for Qantas at Sydney Airport. He has used the M5 East for his daily commute for several years. Following the introduction of the new toll he is now paying an additional \$140 a week. He has informed me that travel times have not improved, yet he now pays an additional \$6000 a year for nothing in return.

Many others have detailed their dismay at having to find the extra money for tolls as public transport is simply not possible. Bus routes are non-existent, there is

inadequate car parks at railway stations and stations like Macquarie Fields do not have a lift.

In early 2020, along with local Councilors and State and Federal members in South-West Sydney, I launched a petition opposing the toll earlier this year and have received an overwhelming response. Over two and half thousand replies from my constituents detailed concerns about the strain these tolls are taking on them.

I have received a clear message from my electorate. The current toll regime is unfair and has not improved travel times.

Thank you for the opportunity to write a submission on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

**Anne Stanley MP**  
Opposition Whip  
Federal Member for Werriwa