

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Tollroads](#)
Subject: Enquiry into toll road costs.
Date: Thursday, 28 June 2018 2:54:55 PM

I'm very pleased that this enquiry has been initiated. I am sure that many people agree with me in saying that the cost of travelling on Queensland toll roads is far too high.

When I started driving in 1961 I always understood that our car registration was for the construction and maintenance of our public roads. We are now told that the toll roads operate on a "user pays" principle. I would therefore like to ask the question "What is our vehicle registration payments being used for?"

I understand the argument that there are far more vehicles on the roads now, and there is a lot more road maintenance required. Therefore more roads are required to handle the increased traffic of cars and freight. The best way of financing these extra roads is to make them toll roads. To this I respond that I think 80-90% of this damage is probably caused by the overuse of large trucks on our roads. I submit that much of this truck traffic is unnecessary, when we have a perfectly good railway system that could be used to take a much greater percentage of our freight off the roads. I know that the fuel cost of rail transport is far less than road transport (rolling friction of tyres on roads is far greater than rolling friction of steel rail wheels on rails.) Trains cause far fewer deaths than trucks too. When I studied engineering in the 1960's, I saw figures indicating that a train hauling 1600 tonnes uses approximately the same amount of fuel as a truck hauling 40 tonnes.

I also would like to make the observation that if toll road costs were to be halved, there would probably be a tenfold increase in motorist usage of our toll roads. I for one try to avoid toll roads whenever possible. I believe they are an unjust imposition on motorists and, if they must exist at all, they should be far cheaper to travel on than they are now.

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