

Ian Smith



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The Committee Secretary  
Transport & Public Works Committee  
Parliament House  
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To The Committee Secretary

Re; " Inquiry into the Operations of Toll Roads in Queensland " .

I wish to "**subscribe**" to this enquiry .

The status of low use of Toll Roads and congested arterial feeder roads in general , means and indicates , the cost of Tolls is too high for significant numbers of the public in Brisbane . Or put more simply the general public will only use the toll roads when the matter is urgent .

Just try driving from the Western Suburbs to the Airport early in the morning and see the intense traffic on Sandgate Rd and feeder roads to Sandgate Rd . I have used the Airport Tunnel a few times when running late due to traffic but the cost is simply too much . Just look at the cost of travelling via the legacy Way and the Airport Tunnel to and from Taringa on regular basis . As many road users know the Tunnel system is an excellent under used asset for the Brisbane population .

The time for a trip to the airport from the Western Suburbs in the early morning [when many of the flights arrive and depart ] can be more than twice as long as using the Tunnels . This makes no sense because it impacts on alternative public streets and only adds to the overall problem.

We have a ridiculous situation where Private Enterprise costs of use are restricting public traffic flows with an alternative available but too expensive for many to use regularly.

Another indication is the amount of uncollected Tolls running into millions of Dollars with substantial amounts unable to ever be collected or recovered . The Toll operators , by their actions and antics to recover Toll Fees , are charging ridiculous penalties which will never be recovered .

Why not try a program which cuts the tolls by 50% for a month and to see what effect that has on the revenue stream ? . It would be a cheap investment for the Qld State Government to underwrite a reduced toll for a period of a month during a holiday free period to see what effect that has on the numbers of people using the tolls and the effect on the Income Stream . Without trying no one will ever know and it is possible the loss of income maybe minimal .

The Tunnel system is a fantastic under used asset , however while a significant proportion of the public cannot afford to use the Tunnels the problem will only get worse with ever increasing traffic on "free " roads .

Meanwhile the Toll operators will continue to run up massive debts with little hope of recovery of outstanding toll charges and eventually having to write off the costs or become bankrupt .

They deserve sympathy for " having a Go " however the simple fact is the cost of use of the Tunnels is too high for the general public.

Yours Sincerely

Ian Smith

