



Speech By  
**Trevor Watts**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH**

---

Record of Proceedings, 17 May 2018

## ADJOURNMENT

### Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, Tolls

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.24 pm): I rise to talk about one of my favourite projects in my electorate and the good member for Lockyer's electorate—the Toowoomba second range crossing. Today I want to talk about the tolls that the Toowoomba second range crossing will have upon its completion. The people of the Darling Downs, the Western Downs, Toowoomba—in fact, people up and down the east coast—and the many people who are involved in logistics movements here in Brisbane are trying to plan their futures. We know that this road will open, albeit seven months late. We are not quite sure exactly the causes for that, but the proponent has to deal with a slip that it has suffered. It will be delivered six or seven months late, but all the same the people of Toowoomba, the Darling Downs and the east coast of Australia need to understand what the toll is going to be so that they can start planning their business costs, their haulage costs and understand their fuel loadings. This is the engine room that drives the east coast of Australia in that it goes through Toowoomba and my electorate and through the electorate of Lockyer. In fact, most of it is in the electorate of Lockyer.

The original business case in today's value is that the toll for a car should be \$3.98. With regard to light commercial vehicles, there have been a couple of different suggestions between \$5 and \$20. With regard to a heavy commercial vehicle—again, there were different business cases at different times—it was suggested that the toll be between \$23 and \$27. The people of Toowoomba and the Western Downs need to hear from this minister before this budget is announced because this is the money that will pay for the maintenance. We need to understand how much he is planning to put on them so that they can plan their businesses. Is he going to be true to the original business case or is there some financial chaos going on in the background that we are not aware of that is going to drive these tolls up? I do not know the answer to that. I call on the minister to let us know what the tolls are going to be so that people can plan their businesses.

I want to raise another issue. When improvements were made to the existing range into Toowoomba there was great work with the environmental people in Redwood Park and the other environmental groups to get a really good rehabilitation of the cuts. I am hearing some worrying rumours about financial restriction and the amount of regrowth that will be planted on to some of those cuts. I ask the minister to look into this and I ask the minister to allow me to go for a trip along the range crossing so that we can start understanding how it is going to be rehabilitated. It goes through a sensitive area of the Toowoomba range and we need to ensure that the native vegetation is protected as it does that.