Question on Notice

No. 499

Asked on 22 April 2021

MR S ANDREW ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise if the government has any plans to introduce a 'user pays' (per kilometre toll or by accessing user GPS or camera recognition systems) road system between now and 2030, that will be additional to normal registration to help pay for Queensland's road infrastructure bill?

ANSWFR:

I thank the member for Mirani for the question.

At present, road users pay for their use of road infrastructure through registration fees and fuel excise. The Australian Government collects fuel excise and it is effectively a charge that relates to vehicle usage, and the amount paid relies on vehicle fuel efficiency and kilometres travelled. Reform of this system is a matter for the Australian Government.

Nationally, several inquiries and investigations from organisations including the Productivity Commission, Infrastructure Australia and the Australian Automobile Association have recommended investigation into some form of transparent charging for road use.

In September 2017, the Honourable Paul Fletcher MP, then federal Minister for Urban Infrastructure and Cities, wrote to all transport and infrastructure ministers advising of the Australian Government's intention to study the potential benefits and costs of road user charging for light vehicles.