



Anoulack Chanthivong MP

MEMBER FOR MACQUARIE FIELDS

The Hon. Natalie Ward MLC
Minister for Metropolitan Roads
Via email

26 May 2022

Dear Minister,

I write in relation to the 2022-23 Budget and draw your attention to the Macquarie Fields electorate's needs in the Metropolitan Roads portfolio.

It is crucial the upcoming budget includes initiatives to support residents in my electorate, including:

- **Greater toll relief:** Motorists in my electorate have been adversely affected by the Liberal Government's tolling agenda. Tolls on the M5 were supposed to end in 2026. But the Liberal Government sold the rights to toll the M5 to Transurban, meaning drivers are forced to keep paying tolls on the M5 until 2060.

Next, the Liberal Government targeted drivers on the M5 East. The M5 East tunnels had been toll-free for 20 years. However, in 2020 the Liberal Government allowed tolling giant Transurban to impose a new toll on an old road. Motorists are now forced to pay \$15.04 return to drive on a road that used to be free.

Substantially improved toll relief is essential to addressing the heavy burden tolls place on household budgets.

- **Ruling out distance-based tolling:** Distance-based tolling disproportionately penalises South West and Western Sydney motorists just to drive their vehicle. The concept is completely unfair.
- **Road maintenance:** Recent adverse weather has greatly deteriorated local roads. Councils understandably cannot keep up with the maintenance needed to repair dangerous potholes. A funding boost is crucial to repairing local roads to make them safe for motorists.

My constituents simply want a fair go and I will continue to fight for our fair share.

I look forward to your advice on the matters raised above.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anoulack Chanthivong', with a long, sweeping underline.

Anoulack Chanthivong MP
Member for Macquarie Fields