

Our ref: PET 57055

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2 APR 2026

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr ~~Laurie~~ *Neil*

I refer to petition 4408-26, lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 3 March 2026, about making Brisbane tunnels and bridges toll free.

Tolls operate on a 'user pays' system, where motorists who benefit from toll roads, such as faster and more reliable travel time, contribute to their costs. Brisbane's toll roads are operated by Transurban Queensland (TQ) under long-term concession agreements with either the Queensland Government or Brisbane City Council. Under these agreements, toll revenue is retained by TQ, who are then responsible for the operation, and maintenance of the asset during the concession period. Toll revenue over the life of the concession also helps pay for the initial construction costs and subsequent upgrades.

At the end of the concession period the asset is then returned to either Brisbane City Council or the Queensland Government at no cost to taxpayers.

It should be noted that there is always a non-tolled alternative available for Brisbane motorists.

If tolls were removed from Brisbane's toll roads, TQ would need to be compensated for outstanding construction costs and future revenue. This would equate to many billions of dollars-money that could not be spent on other important infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and roads.

In addition, all Queensland taxpayers (rather than just the users) would then need to pay for the ongoing maintenance and operations of these assets.

Instead, the Crisafulli Government has made 50 cent public transport fares permanent. This provides an affordable and accessible alternative to driving. Since the introduction of permanent 50 cent fares in February 2025, more than 230 million trips have been made, saving Queenslanders over \$497 million.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brent Mickelberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the word "Mickelberg".

BRENT MICKELBERG MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads