

**DAVID HARRIS MP  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR THE CENTRAL COAST**

**HON JOHN GRAHAM MLC  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR ROADS**

**NSW LABOR DRIVES FOR A  
TOLL-FREE PERIOD ON NORTHCONNEX**

NSW Labor is stepping up its push for a toll-free period on all new motorways, and will bring legislation to make that change to the Legislative Assembly for debate as early as this Thursday.

On Saturday, truck drivers rallied against Government plans to impose a hefty toll on NorthConnex at the height of a recession. The tolls range from \$7.91 for cars and \$23.73 for heavy vehicles.

“Truck drivers and transport operators have shown this is a huge issue the Berejiklian Government must take seriously,” said the Shadow Minister for Roads, John Graham.

The Government’s arrangement with Transurban will see the toll rise 1% every quarter for the life of the 28 year contract.

“This essentially is a tax on the transport industry because heavy vehicle operators will have no choice but to use NorthConnex or face a \$194 fine,” Mr Graham said.

“NorthConnex needs this toll-free period. It’ll give drivers time to adjust to the

new road and improve safety. Last-minute lane changes and heavy vehicles don't mix."

Central Coast Labor MPs are backing the legislation for a toll-free period when NorthConnex opens, to give commuters time to get used to the road and decide whether it will meet their family budget. They're also supporting the transport industry during this difficult economic period.

The Shadow Minister for the Central Coast David Harris said: "The Member for Terrigal Adam Crouch has to stand up for the people on the Central Coast and vote for this legislation.

"This is his chance to put party politics aside and do what's best for our community," Mr Harris said.

"Central Coast residents had to put up with road works and disruption during the NorthConnex construction. A one month toll-free period could save local commuters almost \$320 and heavy vehicle operators nearly \$950."

The Labor legislation has already passed through the NSW Upper House.

Mr Graham added: "The Government has admitted that the issue is yet to go to the Coalition Party Room. That means MPs like the Member for Terrigal still have the option to support the communities who elected them."

Mr Graham introduced the Legislation and said tolls are a heavy burden for the transport industry when the NSW economy is in recession.

**Toll charges as at 1 July 2020:**

**Cars**

\$7.91 (single journey)  
\$15.82 a day return  
\$3,796.80 a year (48 weeks)

**Trucks and Buses**

\$23.73 (single journey)  
\$47.46 a day return  
\$11,390.40 a year (48 weeks)

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