

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

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

**NSW LABOR PUSHES FOR TOLL FREE PERIOD ON
NORTHCONNEX WHEN IT FINALLY OPENS**

NSW Labor Shadow Minister for Roads John Graham has introduced Legislation into the Legislative Council that would enact a toll free period on all new toll ways including NorthConnex when they open.

The Legislation will be debated in the NSW Legislative Council on Wednesday.

Shadow Minister for the Central Coast, David Harris MP has called on the NSW Government to support a toll free period especially in regards to the long awaited NorthConnex Motorway.

Toll charges as at the 1st July 2020.

Cars	Trucks and Buses
\$7.91 (single journey)	\$23.73 (single journey)
\$15.82 a day return	\$47.46 a day return
\$3,796.80 a year (48 weeks)	\$11,390.40 a year (48 weeks)

Under the life of the contract the cost of the toll will increase by more than 4% every year.

NSW Labor's Legislation can be found here:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/bills/Pages/bill-details.aspx?pk=3775>

"For example, a one month toll free period alone could save local commuters almost \$320 and heavy vehicle drivers almost \$950, this could be a big amount especially with the current COVID-19 crises," said Mr Harris.

"Central Coast commuters have had years of road construction to contend with and a toll free period would be an acknowledgment from the Government concerning the disruption they have had to endure," said Mr Harris.

“Labor thinks there should be a toll free period when NorthConnex opens to allow commuters to get used to the road and decide whether the \$3000 that they will have to pay per year to use the road will meet their family budget.”

“Add this to the existing tolls and that’s a fair chunk of the family budget devoted to increased travel costs whilst wages certainly aren’t increasing by that amount,” said Mr Harris

“This is about safety and fairness,” said John Graham. “The Government’s pattern of refusing to implement toll free periods has made driving less safe.”

“Without a toll-free period there is always a risk that drivers will make last-minute lane changes to avoid the toll creating traffic chaos.”

ENDS

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