

**ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG MP  
MEMBER FOR MACQUARIE FIELDS**

**CHRIS MINNS MP  
MEMBER FOR KOGARAH**

**PAUL LYNCH MP  
MEMBER FOR LIVERPOOL**

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

**ANNE STANLEY MP  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WERRIWA**

**MORE THAN 10,000 PEOPLE SIGN PETITION AGAINST GREEDY M5 EAST TOLL**

NSW Labor today lodged a petition in NSW Parliament calling on the Government to scrap the unfair new toll on the M5 East, which motorists can ill-afford during the ongoing recession.

The petition collected more than 10,000 signatures, forcing a debate on the issue in Parliament.

Since July, motorists have been slapped with a toll of \$6.95 each way on the M5 East – a road that's been free since it opened in 2001 and has not been upgraded.

The toll will cost drivers more than \$3,300 a year and will increase by at least 4% every year for the next 40 years.

The new toll comes at a terrible time for motorists who are already struggling during the worst economic downturn since World War II.

Mr Chanthivong said the Government betrayed motorists in south-west Sydney by giving Transurban the rights to toll the M5 East as part of the sale of WestConnex – making motorists pay to use an old road.

"We are in the middle of an economic recession and the Liberal Party's heartless response is to collect more tolls," he said.

"This is a blatant cash grab on motorists who are struggling financially during the pandemic."

Mr Minns said: "The impact of this reckless decision on local roads has been

devastating. Toll roads and tunnels were once designed to reduce surface traffic. This has done the exact opposite.

"Local tradies and families feel betrayed by a Liberal Government that promised it would reduce the cost of living, not radically increase it."

Mr Lynch said: "This is an unfair new toll on an old road. The Berejiklian Government should be ashamed of itself."

Shadow Minister for Roads John Graham said: "Sydney has become one of the highest tolled cities on earth. This toll will hurt families that are doing it tough and make it harder for truckies and tradies to do business."

Ms Stanley said: "I am overwhelmed by the number of stories I've heard about the difficulties this new unfair toll is causing families and workers. Paying for a road that already exists to prop up the liberal budget mistakes is another blow to South West Sydney residents."

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**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

**ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG MP 9618 2077**

**CHRIS MINNS MP 9587 9684**

**PAUL LYNCH MP 0419 241 535**

**ANNE STANLEY MP 8783 0977**