



NSW MINISTER FOR ROADS
MICHAEL DALEY MP

NEWS RELEASE

NEW FLEXIBLE E-TOLL ACCOUNT FOR SYDNEY MOTORISTS

Thursday 4th December 2008

Minister for Roads Michael Daley today announced a new electronic E-toll tag account option to make cash-free travel on Sydney's motorways even easier.

Mr Daley said the **Easy Toll account, which will be available from 15th December 2008, has no deposit and a minimum top up fee of just \$10.**

"This is about making travelling without cash on NSW roads more convenient and cost effective for families, pensioners, frequent and infrequent motorway users.

"The Easy Toll account allows motorists to get an E-toll tag at an RTA registry or over the internet for a one off set-up fee and a small monthly account fee of up to \$1.25.

"It's designed to provide motorists with greater flexibility in terms of payment options as we move towards taking our entire motorway network cashless," he said.

Mr Daley said the new Easy Toll account includes:

- A \$3.30 set-up fee when opened at an RTA registry or a \$1.50 set-up fee when opened online,
- A \$1.25 monthly fee for both payment options and a minimum \$10 top up; and
- A \$1.50 set-up fee for pensioners and a monthly fee of 50 cents.

"This 'pay as you go' style system will better suit those motorists who can't afford or would prefer not to pay a \$40 deposit.

"There are a range of payment options for the Easy Toll account - motorists can pay using eftpos, credit card, money order, cheque and cash in registries.

"If you're paying over the phone or online you have the choice of using your credit card or debit card.

"These extra payment options make getting an electronic tag even easier, particularly in the lead up to the Sydney Harbour Bridge going fully cashless," he said.

Mr Daley also announced that **toll passes for Sydney motorways are now interoperable.**

"This means the RTA's existing E-toll Pass for casual users will not only work on the Sydney Harbour crossings, but all Sydney motorways, making it even easier to get around.

"It's great news for motorists who don't have an electronic tag and only use toll roads occasionally.

“Motorists can register for the RTA’s interoperable pass online or over the phone using a credit card up to a month before the date they intend to travel and 48 hours after the trip.

“The RTA’s camera technology takes a photo of the vehicle’s license plate and matches it to the motorist’s account,” he said.

Mr Daley said **the Sydney Harbour Bridge will become a fully cashless motorway on Sunday 11 January 2009.**

“We announced in September that we will take the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge cashless next year to improve the flow of traffic for the 160, 000 motorists that use it each day.

“It means no more fumbling for cash at the toll booths and I’d encourage all motorists who don’t already have an electronic tag to get onboard before January 11.

“TPI pensioners and disabled motorists are currently entitled to free travel on the Sydney Harbour crossings and this will continue when the Bridge goes cashless.

“They will be provided with a tag at no cost - that’s no deposit and no balance.

“We want to make the move as seamless as possible which is why advertising will start this weekend advising motorists of the changes.

“The move to cashless is about easing congestion and getting traffic moving faster across the Bridge for motorists heading into the CBD,” he said.

Mr Daley said the transition to cashless tolling on the Sydney Harbour crossings will make time-of-day tolling possible on these roads.

“Time-of-day tolling will come into effect on Tuesday 27 January 2009.

“The new tolling measures announced in the mini-budget are another important initiative to reduce congestion in Australia’s biggest city.

“They’re aimed at spreading demand more evenly across the day and will act as an incentive to motorists who travel outside the busy peak period,” he said.

Mr Daley reminded motorists time-of-day tolling on the Sydney Harbour crossings includes:

- **\$2.50 in off-peak periods:** midnight to 6.30am and 7pm to midnight Monday to Friday, and from 8pm to 8am on weekends and public holidays,
- **\$4 in peak periods:** 6.30am to 9.30am and 4pm to 7pm Monday to Friday; and
- **The \$3 toll will remain in the shoulder period:** 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 8pm on weekends and public holidays.

“This Australian first is about managing demand and making journey times quicker on the country’s busiest road.

“The Rees Government is committed to introducing initiatives that make getting around on our motorways as easy as possible,” he said.

For more information log onto www.rta.nsw.gov.au.

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