

**Our reference:** 14/645

**Contact** Jessica Robinson



27 July 2023

Professor Fels  
Independent Toll Review  
via <https://www.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say/toll-review>

Dear Professor Fels,

### **IPART submission to 2023 Independent Toll Review discussion paper**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Independent Toll Review's discussion paper.

In an environment of rising prices, there is a high level of community concern about the affordability and fairness of tolls. The Tribunal agrees with the position in the discussion paper that if competition is not effective in producing good outcomes for motorists, there may be a case for further regulation of the industry.

IPART would be well-placed to provide additional oversight of tolls. We would bring our extensive experience in regulating transport infrastructure and setting prices for public transport services to such a review. As part of our Opal fare reviews, we undertake modelling and consultation to establish the efficient costs of providing public transport services and to understand the impacts of congestion on travel behaviour in Sydney.

We also have a role in regulating access to freight rail networks. Efficient use of the freight network can drive competition with road to lower freight costs and improve productivity, as well as reduce congestion and improve environmental and health outcomes.

IPART uses a rigorous, transparent and inclusive review process. We actively engage with stakeholders as well as undertake independent research and analysis. When making decisions and recommendations, we focus on protecting consumers from unreasonable price increases, improving providers' efficiency and service quality, encouraging competition, protecting the environment, and ensuring that efficient service providers remain financially viable.

For toll roads, we recognise that toll agreements between governments and private companies determine the base level of tolls and the escalation mechanism to apply over the concession period. Given this, the costs of any changes to tolling arrangements for the whole community is also an important consideration.

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Please contact IPART CEO Andrew Nicholls PSM on [REDACTED] Jessica Robinson, Director on [REDACTED] if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

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Signed by: Carmel Donnelly

Carmel Donnelly PSM  
Chair