

Epping Civic Trust - Briefing Note

Re Improved access to M2 from Epping

The Epping Civic Trust has noted that the debate about improving the movement of traffic through Epping continues and the current proposals for dealing with the issue seem to be going nowhere.

The proposal in the Epping Town Centre Plan for a widening of the Epping rail bridge appears to be bogged down in the responsible government authority (RMS). It is now known that the bridge cannot be widened as originally proposed and that a new bridge will cost many millions of dollars.

The obvious alternative to the bridge widening proposal is to put more of the Carlingford Road traffic onto the M2 Motorway. While there is access to the M2 already available it is not attractive to Carlingford Road motorists. The main issue is the full toll that the operator currently charges for the short trip on the motor way.

A secondary issue is the poor access to the motorway from Carlingford Road. The constricted turn left turn from Carlingford Road onto Beecroft Road does not encourage drivers to take this route. On the other hand it is noted that the right turn out of Beecroft Road in the afternoon peak will be improved by the RMS in a current program.

The Epping Civic Trust dealt with the Carlingford Road/Beecroft Road bottleneck issue when the M2 Motorway was being designed in 1992. While the motorway builder supported the Trust by including a tunnel rather than an open cut under Norfolk Road and access to the motorway from Beecroft Road it did not have the facility at the time to separately toll the Epping traffic at a more equitable rate. We also understood that they did not have the support of the roads authority to provide adequate access to the M2.

It is the Trusts position that the issue of access to the M2 Motorway be revisited.

The Trust believes that the time is right with some complementary road works already in planning for Epping (the right hand turn out of Beecroft Road into Carlingford Road) and Transurban (M2 Motorway owner) now having the facility to toll the Epping traffic on a kilometre basis.

The Trusts proposal is:

1. That Transurban installs a modified traffic management system for the Epping on and off ramps on the same basis as the currently under construction Lane Cove Road east on-ramp (go to lanecoveroadramp.com.au).
2. That the Roads and Maritime Service includes in its current works program a two lane left turn form Carlingford Road onto Beecroft Road.

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