

2021

The Parliament of the  
Commonwealth of Australia<sup>1</sup>

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Presented and read a first time*

## **Tollway Limitation Bill 2021**

### **No. , 2021**

*GHagrid MP*

*Written by GHagrid MP*

*Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport*

**A Bill for an Act to limit the percentage of Tollways in  
our key roads**

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<sup>1</sup> This publication is a part of AustraliaSim (r/AustraliaSim), a reddit based simulation of Australian politics. This has no connection with the Australian Government, nor intends to imply such a connection.

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# **A Bill for an Act to limit the percentage of Tollways in our key roads, and for related purposes.**

The Parliament of Australia enacts:

## **Part 1—Preliminary**

### **1 Short title**

This Act may be cited as the *Tollway Limitation Bill 2021*

### **2 Commencement**

- (1) Each provision of this Act specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

<b>Commencement information</b>		
<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>	<b>Column 3</b>
<b>Provision(s)</b>	<b>Commencement</b>	<b>Date/Details</b>
1. The whole of this Act	The day after this Act receives Presidential Assent	

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this Act as originally enacted. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this Act.

- (2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this Act. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in it may be edited, in any published version of this Act.

### **3 Commonwealth to be bound**

This Act binds the Commonwealth in all its capacities.

#### **4 Extension to external Territories**

This Act extends to all external Territories.

#### **5 Extension to the States**

This Act is made under section 106A of the Australian Constitution.

#### **6 Definitions**

In this Act:

***M Road*** means roads classified with the M Route prefix, eg. the M79 Calder Freeway. Western Australia's National Highways and State Routes 2-8 are M Roads.

***A Road*** means roads classified with the A Route prefix, eg. the A6 Huon Highway. Western Australia's State Routes 10-139 are A Roads.

***Tollway*** means roads classified with the M or A prefix that require a fee to be paid to drive on a specific road. Note - The

***State*** means the geographic area of the each of the seven states of the Commonwealth of Australia

***Territory*** means the geographic area of the Australian Capital Territory

#### **7 Objects of this Act**

The objects of this Act are:

- (a) To limit the growing number of tolls on our key roads
- (b) To lower the rising costs of travelling to work for many Australians
- (c) To keep vital Australian infrastructure in government hands

## **Part 2—Tollway Limitation**

### **8 Tollway Limit on M Routes**

Tollways must not make up more than 70% of M Routes in each state or territory

### **9 Tollway Limit on A Routes**

Tollways must not make up more than 50% of A Routes in each state or territory

### **10A Tollway Definition**

A Tollway is a:

- (a) An M or A Route that is privately owned and a fee is charged for its use or;
- (b) publicly owned but leased to a private company that charges a fee for use

### **10B Tollway Definition, partial tollways**

The fee does not have to apply to the entire M or A Route in question for the road to be considered a toll road

### **11 New Tollways**

New tollways projects may not be constructed or approved if they would bring a state or territories over their allowed tollway limit

## **Part 3—Routing Restrictions**

### **12 Tollway Restrictions**

Tollways may not remove their M or A Route prefix if it would remove their designation as a tollway under the Act

### **13 Routing restrictions**

M and A roads that are not tollways must not be added for the primary purpose of reducing the percentage of Tollways in a state or territory

## **Part 4—Breach of this Act**

### **14 Breach of routing restriction requirement**

If a road routing is found to be in breach of Section 13, the road must be rerouted to conform with the section

### **15 Breach of tollway restriction requirement**

If the Tollway percentage in a state is breached then the Commonwealth of Australia through the Minister for Infrastructure and Treasury must take action to bring the percentage into accordance with the Act

### **16 Actions the Commonwealth may take**

The Commonwealth may take the following actions to bring the tollway percentage back to what is permitted by the act (note this is a non-exhaustive list)

- (a) Purchasing the lease of the tollway in question, turning it into a freeway
- (b) Purchasing the lease of another tollway to bring the percentage down
- (c) Purchasing a privately owned Tollway and removing its toll
- (d) Reimburse users of a Tollway so that Tollway becomes a de facto non-tollway until a more permanent solution is found