



**Australian
Privacy
Foundation**

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23 September 2008

SEE ATTACHED LIST

Dear PERSON

Re: Anonymous Use of Public Roads and Public Transport

There has been a substantial shift in recent years towards tolling of roads, bridges and tunnels. Coupled with that has been a concerted effort by operators to reduce their labour costs by not installing cash-booths on new segments.

There is now a movement to withdraw cash-booths from even the most longstanding of toll-roads. A change of great symbolic significance is the announcement that the cash-booths on the Sydney Harbour Bridge will be withdrawn at the end of January 2009 ('Last cash booths on bridge to close', Sydney Morning Herald, Thursday 18 September 2008)

All tags are essentially identified payment tools. Further, as far as the APF can tell, none of the tolling schemes in Australia has a practicable anonymous option, and some have not even put up a pretence.

The effect of the withdrawal of cash booths has accordingly been that anonymous use of public roads is precluded.

Further, the designs for smartcard-based ticketing for rail, bus and ferry services have in most cases excluded an effective anonymous option, or have imposed high levels of inconvenience or foregone savings.

Together, these developments have a potentially very serious impact on the freedom of movement within the country

Most sets of privacy principles include a requirement that anonymity be supported, and freedom of movement is fundamental to declarations of human rights such as UDHR and ICCPR.

Would you please advise what actions you are taking to bring these serious problems to the attention of Ministers, in order to ensure that anonymous options are designed-in, or retro-fitted to, travel payment schemes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Roger Clarke
Chair, Australian Privacy Foundation
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Ms Karen Curtis
Privacy Commissioner
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Dear Karen

Judge K V Taylor AM RFD
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Dear Judge Taylor

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Dear Helen

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Dear Zoe

The Hon. John von Doussa
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Dear Mr von Doussa

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Dear Mr Gorton

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Dear Dr Watchirs