

NSW MINISTER FOR ROADS MICHAEL DALEY MP

NEWS RELEASE

MOTORISTS EMBRACE CASHLESS TOLLING ON SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE

Thursday 5th February 2009

Minister for Roads Michael Daley today said motorists are embracing the move to cashless tolling on the Sydney Harbour Bridge with record numbers getting an E-toll tag in January.

Mr Daley said figures rose in December last year as motorists prepared for cashless tolling but that record was broken in January, with an average 1500 accounts opened every day.

"Motorists are heeding the message to get an electronic tag to ensure they're covered for the tolls on the Sydney Harbour crossings.

"Around 46,000 people registered for an RTA E-toll tag last month – more than double the 22,990 motorists in December.

"More than 20,000 motorists also registered for a casual user pass in January," he said.

Mr Daley said the usual monthly take up for electronic tags is between 14,000 and 17,000 and to date around 1.7 million tags are in circulation.

"We've also had a great response to the new Easy Toll tag, with almost 7000 people choosing the no-deposit electronic tag since it was introduced in December.

"Motorists deserve credit for adapting so well to cashless tolling and we're waiving the administration fee for a short period for those people use the Bridge but still haven't picked up a tag.

"We want to make travel as quick and efficient as possible for the 160,000 motorists who cross the Bridge each day.

Mr Daley said time-of-day tolling is also working well to improve the flow of traffic on the Sydney Harbour crossings after being introduced on 27 January.

"Results from the first week show those motorists who were able to adjust their travel time did so, with more heading into the city before 6.30am compared to the same time last year.

"It's an encouraging sign and we're hopeful the positive results will continue - we'll be watching traffic volumes closely over the next few weeks.

More information on time of day tolling and electronic tag or pass options is available on the RTA's website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au or by calling 131 865.

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