



Greg Piper MP

Member for Lake Macquarie



MEDIA RELEASE

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TORONTO TRAVEL TIMES UNACCEPTABLE

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, has declared travel times through Toronto unacceptable.

In response to questioning by Mr Piper, the Minister for Transport has admitted that during the morning peak it takes on average 3½ minutes to travel the 800 metres along Main Road 217 between Excelsior Parade and Bay St.

“This is an average of less than 14km/hr,” Mr Piper said. “At that rate the 28 km trip to Newcastle would take two hours!”

“The Toronto section of that trip is totally unacceptable.”

According to Mr Piper, traffic is held up at the short stretch between Thorne St and Bay St. There are five intersections within 400 metres and it becomes congested due to the merging of lanes, the lack of dedicated turning lanes and apparently the poor phasing of traffic signals. In peak periods and at many other times this strip is subject to gridlock, with the intersections holding up enough traffic to block one another.

“This section of road has a very bad accident history because of its poor capacity and layout,” Mr Piper added.

All but one of the properties on the western side of this strip have been acquired for road widening. The one remaining property has been redeveloped to allow for the new lanes.

“It would be very simple to fix this problem once the decision is made,” Mr Piper said.

“This is the main road used by thousands of commuters and the reality is that the problem doesn’t need to exist.”