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**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 October 2010 10:51 AM  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Tax Policy Seminar - Richard Denniss and Mark Harvey - Road congestion charging - CI 10094

Hi Everyone

Could you also please add the details below to the Upcoming Events section at <http://intranet/ucontent/10/default.asp> and to the tax policy seminar series page at [http://intranet/ucontent/10/AFTS\\_seminars.asp?NavID=10nc](http://intranet/ucontent/10/AFTS_seminars.asp?NavID=10nc)

28 -10-10 Tax Policy Seminar – Richard Denniss and Mark Harvey – Road congestion charging

28 October 2010  
11:00am-12:15pm  
A3.28

Textbook public finance theory suggests that putting a price on travel on congested roads could be a good way of internalising the external costs that each driver imposes on other drivers, but will probably not take into account themselves. It's done overseas and the first tentative steps in this direction have been taken in NSW where it now costs a bit more to cross the harbour bridge in peak hour than it does in the middle of the night. What are the prospects for road charging in Australia? This week, Dr Richard Denniss from the Australia Institute will explore the case for road congestion charging, options for implementation and the potential impacts of charging on house prices and urban form. Dr Mark Harvey from the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics will act as discussant.

Richard Denniss is Executive Director of the Australia Institute. He is an economist with a particular interest in the role of regulation. Prior to taking up his current position he was an Associate Professor at the Crawford School of Economics and Government at the Australian National University where he continues to hold an adjunct appointment. Richard has also worked as Strategy Adviser to the Leader of the Australian Greens, Senator Bob Brown, Chief of Staff to the Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Natasha Stott Despoja, and lectured in economics at the University of Newcastle. Richard has published extensively in academic journals, is a frequent contributor to national newspapers and was the co-author of the best selling *Affluenza* (with Dr Clive Hamilton) and is the co-author of *An Introduction to Australian Public Policy: Theory and Practice* (with Dr Sarah Maddison).

Mark Harvey is Research Manager, Regulatory Reform and Investment Analysis, at BITRE in Canberra. BITRE carries out applied economic research within the Department of Infrastructure and Transport. Mark has honours and PhD degrees in economics from the University of Queensland. His areas of expertise are investment appraisal, pricing theory, transport and industrial economics, and computer modelling. He contributed to a major BITRE report on congestion charging and, in November last year, he was seconded to the Henry Tax Review to assist with the road transport taxes chapter.

It is estimated that urban road congestion will cost the country something like \$20 billion a year by 2020. It's a big deal and this week we have two leading Australian experts to discuss the policy options

[Dr Richard Denniss](#)

[Affluenza](#)

[BITRE report: Moving urban Australia: can congestion charging unclog our roads?](#)

[Henry Tax Review: road transport taxes chapter](#)

I will forward the PowerPoints when they arrive.

Many thanks

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