

Features of a Smart Motorway

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What is a Smart Motorway?

Smart motorways use real time information, communication and smart traffic management systems. The features below work together to smooth the flow of traffic, ease congestion, efficiently manage incidents and improve road safety.

Ramp metering system

Ramp meters are quick change traffic lights on motorway entry ramps to manage the flow of vehicles entering the motorway. When the red lights appear, drivers stop and wait for the green signal. When lights turn green, one vehicle per lane will be able to drive along the ramp and merge onto the motorway. They operate on a fast cycle as compared to standard traffic lights which take one to three minutes.

The ramp meters only operate during busy periods to improve traffic flow; they stay off at other times. This prevents congestion and better manages the conflict between vehicles merging and motorway traffic.

Safer Merging

By controlling the timing of vehicles entering the motorway, ramp meters enable safer merging while maintaining a smooth flow of traffic on the motorway. They help people travelling on the motorway to enjoy more consistent speeds and predictable travel times with less congestion. It also means less stop-start traffic and less sudden braking, meaning less wear and tear on vehicles and a reduction in the risk of crashes.

Variable message signs

Variable message signs (VMS) will be located along your journey to provide real-time information about traffic conditions and expected travel times. This will help you to make decisions about which route to take before entering the motorway and once on the motorway.

Speed and lane use signs

Speed and lane use signs are used to deliver information to drivers on lane closures and speed limits. Speed limits can be changed in response to traffic conditions to improve road safety, traffic flow and provide a consistent journey.



To view Virtual Reality Images

Assemble headset as per instructions on back of box
On a smart phone visit the website and click on any of the 360° video images. Place the phone in the headset and experience the M4 Motorway Smart Features

Visit:

<https://v2.communityanalytics.com.au/rms/m4/video-gallery>

For further information visit

www.rms.nsw.gov.au/m4smartmoroway