



Smart Freeway Smart people



Perth's first Smart Freeway has more than 800 individual pieces of technology gathering information about the traffic conditions between Farrington Road and the Narrows Bridge.

But the technology is at its best with smart people operating it.

To that end, Main Roads ensures we have highly trained people at the Road Network Operations Centre, who can use the information gathered to optimise driver safety and reduce congestion in 'real time'.

See over for details or visit SmartFreeways.wa.gov.au



Part of the
Transforming Perth's
Freeways initiative

SmartFreeways.wa.gov.au



The highly skilled people in our Road Network Operations Centre use a range of smart technologies to make smart decisions to improve journey times, reduce congestion and make driving safer for everyone.

Our people undergo extensive training, which is continuously reviewed to ensure we benefit from the full potential of the newly-available technologies on our Smart Freeway, as well as the entire road network.

What are their roles?

The Control Room Operators monitor and optimise the safety and efficiency of traffic flow in 'real time' on the state road network.

They observe road conditions visually and interrogate data from the Intelligent Transport Systems installed on this section of freeway.

This allows our people to make informed decisions, individually and as part of a wider team, when responding to potential congestion, accidents or incidents on the Smart Freeway 24/7.

Our Route Managers are constantly fine-tuning the system to ensure (under normal conditions) traffic runs smoothly on the freeway by managing the flow of vehicles entering from the ramps.

How do they make a difference?

During morning peaks, traffic flows get heavy and impact travel times. It is the role of the Control Room Operators and Route Managers to use the technologies installed to help drivers get to where they need to be as efficiently and safely as possible.

Once alerted to an incident, which could cause congestion to develop on the Smart Freeway, the operators can reduce speeds using the overhead gantries. This reduces traffic build-up, provides safe passing speeds around an incident and gives drivers warning messages so they can consider different route choices.

They can also manage the number of vehicles entering the freeway by taking manual control of the otherwise automated coordinated ramp signals located on five northbound on-ramps, between Farrington Road and the Mt Henry Bridge. Their efforts help to keep the freeway traffic flowing smoothly.

What do the operators do when there's an accident?

The Control Room Operators are alerted to stopped vehicles on the Smart Freeway by Automatic Incident Detection radars and cameras. They then check the incident scene using CCTV cameras and protect drivers by lowering the speeds and closing lanes using the 'Red X' on the overhead electronic signs.

They can also dispatch Incident Response Service vehicles, which operate 24/7, to further protect and assist drivers whilst relaying live CCTV images back to the control room.

If you'd like to know more about Smart Freeways and how they work, visit SmartFreeways.wa.gov.au



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