

M4 Smart Motorway FAQs

Here are some of our top questions about the M4 Smart Motorway project.



Which motorway is the M4?

The M4 Motorway is a 35km long motorway that opened in Sydney in the 1960's. It stretches from Concord in the inner west to Lapstone in the Blue Mountains. The M4 Motorway connects to the M5 WestConnex at Haberfield and also intersects the Westlink M7 at Eastern Creek.

What is the M4 Smart Motorway Project?

The M4 Motorway will become first smart motorway in NSW with new road structures and technology being installed from Parramatta to Penrith.

What is a Smart Motorway?

A Smart Motorway, also known as a Managed Motorway in Victoria, use real-time information, communication and traffic control systems in and alongside the road to improve traffic flow. Variable road signs and messages communicate to drivers how to best travel along the motorway for a safer, more consistent journey with less congestion.

Where else is this technology being used in Australia?

Smart motorway technologies are being used on Melbourne's M1 motorway and introduced in southern Queensland on several roads including the Ipswich Motorway. Some individual elements of the technology are already in place on Sydney roads including the M1, M2, M5 and M7 Motorways.

Has this system delivered improvements in other locations?

Yes, studies have reported a significant reduction in motorway incidents and improved traffic flow. On Melbourne's M1 Motorway reports have shown:

- Travel times have been reduced by up to 42 percent
 - Crash rates have decreased by 30 percent
 - Vehicle emissions have been reduced by 11 percent
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How does the Smart Motorway work?

There are a number of different parts that work together to ensure traffic flow and safety along the motorway. Here are the parts you will see along your journey:

- Variable speed signs
- Variable lane use signs
- Variable message signs
- Ramp meters
- CCTV cameras and sensors

All these parts work together as a traffic management system that keep you safe and moving. For more information check out the features page on the website or the quick reference guide.

When will the Smart Motorway be open?

Construction on the M4 Smart Motorway project began in 2017 across three stages. The third and final stage was completed in May 2020. Drivers will experience a staged opening of the motorway by the end of 2020. During this time all the technology will be switched on and trialled, ready for the full opening.

Are the variable speed signs enforceable?

Yes they are. However the variable speed limits come into operation when there is heavy traffic, an immediate road incident or other adverse conditions. Otherwise there are no permanent changes to the speed limits along the motorway.

Who is funding this project?

The concept design and environmental assessment phase of the M4 Smart Motorway project was jointly funded by the NSW and Australian governments.

The project is being developed as part of the National Smart Managed Motorways Programme, which targets major economic routes and aims to improve freight, business and commuter connections with key locations, including employment centres and major transport centres like the airport.

The NSW Government has allocated \$600 million towards the M4 Smart Motorway project. For more information visit the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development website.

Will there be a toll for the M4 Smart Motorway?

There will be no toll introduced to this section of the M4 motorway as part of this project. However, the section of the M4 motorway east of Church Street will be tolled as part of the WestConnex project.

Contact us



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