



SMART FREEWAYS

Smart Freeways Smart People



Perth's Smart Freeways have more than 2000 individual pieces of technology gathering information about traffic conditions on the Kwinana and Mitchell Freeways.

But the technology is at its best with smart people operating it. We have highly trained people at our Road Network Operations Centre, who use the information gathered to optimise driver safety and reduce congestion in 'real time'.

Our people undergo extensive training, which is continuously reviewed to ensure we benefit from the full potential of our Smart Freeways, 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 our Smart Freeways.

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 freeways 24/7.

Our route managers are constantly fine-tuning the system to ensure traffic runs smoothly by managing the flow of vehicles entering from the ramps.

How do they make a difference?

During peak hours, accidents or incidents, traffic flows get heavy and impact travel times. It is the role of our control room operators and route managers to use technology 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 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 the on ramps. Their efforts help to keep the freeway traffic flowing smoothly.

What do the operators do when there is an accident?

The Control Room Operators are alerted to stopped vehicles on the Smart Freeways 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.

Further information

For more information about Smart Freeways and how they work in Western Australia visit mainroads.wa.gov.au