



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Minister for Roads and Ports

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REDUCING CONGESTION ON THE M1 GOES HI-TECH

A new traffic management system to deliver improvements to congestion, capacity and safety will be installed on the M1 Freeway as part of the \$1.39 billion M1 upgrade, Roads and Ports Minister Tim Pallas said today.

Mr Pallas said that the \$13.7 contract to design the software for the new traffic management system had been awarded to Queensland company Transmax Pty Ltd.

"The contract will design the software used by freeway ramp signals to monitor and control traffic, as well as on-road signage to communicate to drivers about lane closures, speed limits and freeway conditions," Mr Pallas said.

"This system is unique in Australia and will deliver significant improvements to the operation of the Freeway, used by more than 160,000 motorists every day."

Ramp signals will help manage the freeway during peak periods by preventing the main road from becoming overly congested, while managing traffic volumes at critical bottlenecks.

As part of the M1 upgrade ramp signals will be introduced at more than sixty locations on the freeway.

Speed and lane control will be in place over 18 kilometres of the Freeway and new technology linking the operation of these signals will allow VicRoads to respond more quickly to incidents and freeway congestion.

Mr Pallas said the new system had already been successfully trialled on a section of the Monash Freeway.

"Transmax Pty Ltd has been working with Victoria to develop the complex operating system behind this metering system, which is already showing success as part of a trial on the Monash Freeway, he said.

Works to install the new freeway management system are already underway. Implementation of the entire system is due for completion in December 2010.