M2 upgrade and traffic management
Response given to Sydney Morning Herald

A tidal flow arrangement was meant to be implemented for buses on the M2 during construction work on the upgrade. Why has this arrangement not been implemented?

Department response:

The environmental assessment for the M2 upgrade acknowledged that some disruptions to traffic during construction would be inevitable. The conditions of approval required a traffic management plan to be prepared and implemented during the construction phase, including measures to minimise disruptions and delays as far as possible.

A temporary tidal flow arrangement was proposed in the environmental assessment to minimise disruption to buses during the construction phase. In February 2011, the RTA advised the Department that during ongoing consultation, bus operators raised concerns regarding potential safety risks associated with the tidal flow arrangements – specifically safety and traffic delays associated with buses breaking down and being hemmed in between concrete barriers.

The RTA has advised the Department that it has subsequently investigated and implemented alternative traffic arrangements involving eastbound buses using the existing dedicated bus lane, and westbound buses using general traffic lanes.

The RTA has further advised the Department that it has undertaken additional traffic modelling which concludes that travel times under the revised arrangements would not be significantly different from the proposed tidal flow arrangements. The Department and RTA agreed the changes were consistent with the approved project and a modification to the approval was not required.

Once completed, the $550 million upgrade of the motorway will deliver significant benefits for more than 100,000 drivers who use the motorway each weekday. The project will provide 14.5km of new or widened traffic lanes and deliver increased capacity and improved traffic flow. Around 550 construction jobs will be generated by the project.