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# M5 tunnel emitted carbon monoxide, operators admit

The operator of Sydney's M5 east tunnel has revealed it has been emitting carbon monoxide through the entrances.

Baulderston Hornibrook says the emissions occurred weekly for several months earlier this year and were caused by a faulty air monitor.

Spokesman Paul Levins says it had little effect on the overall air quality in the area.

"Whilst that faulty monitor was in place we were venting through the tunnel entrances and exits so that there was a small mixture of fresh air [and] tunnel air that went out those entrances rather than through the stack," he said.

Mr Levins says the problem has been fixed.

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"It happened, I think, on a weekly basis for a period of some months but the amount that was expelled out of the entrances and the exits to the tunnel would have had little impact," he said.

"In fact, [it] did have little impact on the external air quality at those entrances and exits."

Roads and Traffic Authority spokesman Paul Willoughby agrees with that assessment, saying while it is disappointing the problem occurred, the impact was minimal.

"It is unfortunate there was this problem with the monitor but as the operators of the tunnel have pointed out, the impact was not significant," he said.

"We're pleased the problem was identified and it was fixed. We look forward to the tunnel operating in the future without this sort of problem occurring again."

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