

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Mechanical and electrical fit-out of Airport Link and Northern Busway tunnels underway**

With Airport Link now nearing 70% complete, the project is transitioning into the next phase of construction with the mechanical and electrical fit-out of the tunnels ramping up at all key worksites.

Mechanical and electrical fit-out, or MEFT as it is commonly known, involves the installation of essential services as well as lighting, signage and ventilation in the tunnels - all of which is required to maintain a safe and comfortable environment for motorists.

Thiess John Holland Project Director Gordon Ralph said the transition into MEFT will be a gradual one at each tunnel site as excavation comes to an end and the permanent concrete lining for the tunnels is completed.

"The mechanical and electrical fit-out of the tunnels is a huge task for the project with requiring a team of up to 800 people," Mr Ralph said.

"We will be installing nearly 200 jet fans, more than 500 traffic control signs, over 5,500 tunnel lights and more than 2,300 kilometres of cable," he said.

The first batch of architectural panels for the tunnel walls arrive this week from Europe and will be installed in the Bowen Hills tunnels. In total there will be 22 kilometres of panels installed across the project.

"Mechanical and electrical fit-out of the northbound tunnel at Bowen Hills is well underway with the southbound tunnel scheduled to start this week," Mr Ralph said.

"The installation of concrete barriers and lighting is already 30% complete in the northbound tunnel in the Bowen Hills to Truro Street section with painting of the smoke duct also ongoing.

In the Northern Busway tunnel, the installation of a cable support system has commenced along the roof of the tunnel which provides a route for power and control cables. It also provides a location to install lights, closed circuit television, public address system and air quality monitoring devices.

"We are also in the process of installing a fire suppression system in the Northern Busway tunnel which includes fire hydrants and sprinklers," he said.

Mechanical and electrical fit-out also occurs in buildings associated with the project such as the Airport Link Operation Centre (ALOC) and Ventilation Station Outlets. These buildings must be fitted-out with electricity, air conditioning, lighting and ventilation.

"At Toombul the MEFT team has recently commenced the progressive fit-out of the Ventilation Station and electrical sub-station situated along Sandgate Road," Mr Ralph said.

...Page 1/2



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Nearly 70% of the project is now complete and when Airport Link opens in mid-2012, it will be the first major motorway connecting Brisbane city with the airport and northern suburbs.

15 million hours have been worked and the project has surpassed their expected peak employment bringing the jobs total to 3,800. The project is expected to create 12,000 direct and indirect jobs.

When Airport Link opens in mid-2012 it will be the first major motorway connecting Brisbane city with the airport and northern suburbs.

It will improve travel times, providing six new lanes for drivers between Bowen Hills and Kedron and four new lanes between Kedron and Toombul.

The project, which is being designed and constructed by Thiess John Holland, along with the Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) and the Airport Roundabout Upgrade, is part of a massive \$4.8 billion infrastructure investment on Brisbane's Northside.

#### **Fast Facts – Tunnel fit-out**

- More than 2,300 km of cable to be installed
- 194 jet fans to be installed
- More than 5,500 lights to be installed
- More than 500 electronic traffic control signs to be installed
- 22 km of architectural lining panels to be installed
- 85,000m<sup>3</sup> of concrete to be used

#### **ENDS**

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