

MEDIA RELEASE

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Tunnelling underway for Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron)

Works on the second stage of the Northern Busway is underway with the first roadheader now 45 metres into its journey from the project's Truro Street construction site at Windsor in Brisbane's north.

The first of two roadheader machines to operate on the Northern Busway is now carving out the 1.5 kilometre busway tunnel that will extend from Windsor to Kedron.

The roadheader is currently excavating from Truro Street near local landmark Pop's Fig, where the entry portal to the Northern Busway tunnel will be located.

Thiess John Holland Project Director Gordon Ralph said the Northern Busway tunnel is designed to carry buses only and will be constructed above the Airport Link road tunnel.

"Excavation of the Northern Busway tunnel will involve 700 metres of roadheader tunnelling and 850 metres of cut and cover construction," said Mr Ralph.

"As construction of the busway tunnel will occur above the Airport Link mainline tunnel, the project is a complex and challenging operation," he said.

The Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) is being constructed together with Airport Link and the Airport Roundabout Upgrade, forming Australia's largest infrastructure project.

A total of 15 kilometres of tunnelling is required for both the Airport Link road and Northern Busway, and approximately 3.3 kilometres has been excavated to date.

Since tunnelling commenced in 2009, 13 roadheader machines are now operating across Brisbane in Bowen Hills, Windsor and Kedron, to excavate the project's road and busway tunnels.

Nine major construction sites have been established and employment has reached its peak with 2,700 people working with Thiess John Holland for design and construction of the three projects.

BrisConnections CEO, Dr Ray Wilson said the Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) is a key component in the Brisbane busway network that will eventually span the city, and significantly improve travel times and access to public transport for northside residents.

"The integrated Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) and Airport Link projects are expected to reduce traffic on Lutwyche Road by up to 45%," said Dr Wilson.

The Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) will incorporate two new busway stations located at Lutwyche and Kedron, boasting world-class design driven by passenger safety, comfort and accessibility.

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Lutwyche will become a vibrant urban centre with an attractive, open-air busway station and pedestrian underpass safely connecting both sides of Lutwyche Road.

The Kedron Brook Busway Station, featuring a kiss 'n' ride entry plaza, will re-connect local communities with safe pathway access from four directions:

- Improved pathway networks along Kedron Brook
- Kedron Brook busway bridge from the north
- Re-aligned Perry Street from the west
- Signalised crossings at Lutwyche Road

Tunnelling for the busway will continue until early 2011, with the project scheduled for completion in 2012 ahead of Airport Link.

By 2016, the Northern Busway will cater for 47,000 trips per day, more than five times more than the current bus operations. By 2026 it will cater for a bus every 20 seconds.

The Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron), together with Airport Link and the Airport Roundabout Upgrade is part of a \$4.8 billion transport infrastructure investment by the Queensland Government.

BrisConnections, appointed by the State to deliver the projects, has contracted Thiess John Holland to undertake the projects' design and construction.

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