

MEDIA RELEASE

29 April, 2010

Flyover underway for Airport Roundabout Upgrade one year on

One year into construction and the \$272m Airport Roundabout Upgrade is a visual spectacle capturing the eye of motorists as massive 52-tonne concrete segments are erected forming bridge spans for the new East-West flyover.

Night works and traffic detours near the Airport Roundabout are now in place as the giant bridge segments are being lifted into place progressively along East West Arterial Road and Airport Drive, expected to continue through until October 2010.

Project Director Gordon Ralph of construction company Thiess John Holland, said a team of more than 200 workers have clocked up almost 500,000 hours building the project, scheduled for completion in mid 2011.

“Work on the 21 metre tall flyover commenced in late 2009, and 11 of the 12 bridge piers required for the flyover are now under construction,” said Mr Ralph.

“75 of the total 436 bridge segments have been erected for the flyover to date, with the segments manufactured at the project’s purpose-built Precast Facility in Pinkenba”, he said.

Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, Stirling Hinchliffe, today inspected progress on the project from the new Gateway Motorway overpass, the first section of the Airport Roundabout Upgrade to be completed.

“The project’s new Gateway Motorway overpass is almost complete with traffic expected to make the switch to the new 180m section of roadway in coming months,” Mr Hinchliffe said.

Minister Hinchliffe noted that the new overpass will allow Thiess John Holland to demolish the existing Gateway overpass.

“Once the old overpass is out of the way TJH can continue building the 750 metre flyover which will allow motorists to bypass the Gateway and Nudgee Road intersection, driving directly from the East West Arterial Road to Airport Drive,” he said.

On completion, the Airport Roundabout Upgrade will connect with the Airport Link toll road from entry and exit ramps located on East West Arterial Road, allowing fast travel from Brisbane city to the airport avoiding up to 18 sets of lights. The upgrade will not be tolled.

Dr Ray Wilson, CEO of BrisConnections, the concessionaire of Airport Link and the primary party to provide the upgrade, congratulated Thiess John Holland on its progress to date in alleviating one of the most congested intersections in SEQ.

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“This is an important milestone towards the operation of Airport Link, which from June 2012 with the Airport Roundabout Upgrade, will remove up to 18 sets of traffic lights and reduce travel time by up to 50% to Brisbane Airport and Australia TradeCoast”, Dr Wilson said.

On completion, the Airport Roundabout Upgrade will be handed back to the Department of Main Roads.

The project involves the upgrade of the roundabout itself and the intersection at East-West Arterial and Nudgee Roads, including:

- Replacing the existing Gateway Motorway overpass at the roundabout with a new four-lane overpass
- Replacing the existing roundabout with a high capacity signalised intersection
- Constructing a new four-lane 750 metre long bridge linking the East-West Arterial Road and Airport Drive over the Gateway Motorway overpass
- Improved connections to the airport precinct, the Gateway Motorway and Kingsford Smith Drive
- Widening of the East-West Arterial Road to three traffic lanes in each direction
- Surface road improvements to Airport Drive.

Design and construction of the Airport Roundabout Upgrade is being undertaken by Thiess John Holland, contracted by BrisConnections who are responsible for delivering the project together with Airport Link and the Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron), a \$4.8 billion infrastructure investment by the State Government.

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