

MEDIA RELEASE

16 June, 2010

Airport Link tunnel segments 40% complete

Airport Link's pre-cast facility in Eagle Farm has manufactured 40% of the 21,000 tunnel segments being produced for the \$4.8 billion Airport Link Project.

The facility, which employs up to 95 workers, produces millions of dollars worth of concrete tunnel segments for construction of the Airport Link tunnel.

9,000 segments have been produced to date, equating to 900 rings or 1.7 kilometres of tunnel.

Thiess John Holland Project Director, Gordon Ralph said the pre-cast facility at Eagle Farm is world-class in terms of its capacity and quality of production

"More than 300 cubic metres of concrete is used per day to produce more than 100 segments in a 24 hour shift," Mr Ralph said.

"Over a 12 month period, 65,000 cubic meters of concrete is required to produce the 21,000 segments, which is the equivalent of 26 Olympic sized swimming pools."

When the Airport Link's Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) begin tunnelling next month, these segments will fit together to form rings creating the concrete lining of the Airport Link tunnel.

Each ring has an internal diameter of 11.4 metres and is made up of 9 segments plus a keystone which locks the ring into position.

"The segments, which weigh up to 8 tonnes each, will be automatically installed by the TBMs as excavation progresses using a massive vacuum erector," Mr Ralph said.

"The TBMs are pushed forward two metres by hydraulic thrust cylinders while the 12.48 metre cutterhead rotates to cut through the ground. Once the two metres has been excavated the TBMs cease excavation and commence the installation of one full concrete ring, segment by segment.

This facility is particularly unique given the high quality of production required. A vigorous regime of sampling, testing, measuring and inspecting is undertaken to ensure that each individual segment is compliant to the strict design criteria required for construction of the tunnels.

The Eagle Farm pre-cast facility is also part of the many benefits Airport Link is bringing to Queensland.

"The facility is providing a boost for Queensland businesses with local companies Neilsens, Wagners and Micodie securing the top major contracts for the supply of sands and aggregates, cements and delivery services respectively for Airport Link," Mr Ralph said.

....page 1/2



Thiess John Holland
ABN: 17 438 477 568

24 Hour Community Hotline
1800 721 783

contactus@tjh.com.au
www.brisconnections.com.au

BrisConnections CEO, Dr Ray Wilson said work at the pre-cast facility is another sign of the tremendous progress on Airport Link.

“Australia’s largest privately funded infrastructure project, incorporating Airport Link, Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) and Airport Roundabout Upgrade, involves the construction of 25 bridges, 15 kilometres of tunnelling including ramps and more than seven kilometres of new road,” Dr Wilson said.

“Next month our first Tunnel Boring Machine is expected to begin its 12-month journey from Toombul to Lutwyche, fitting out the tunnel with these concrete segments as it moves forward at about 85 metres per week.

“Twenty-four hour tunnelling is also continuing at the southern end of the project in Bowen Hills and to the north in Windsor and Kedron, with more than 4 kilometres of tunnel excavated to date.”

Thiess John Holland selected the Eagle Farm site due to the large storage area available and the close proximity to major arterial roads.

Production of the concrete tunnel segments at the facility is expected to be complete by the end of January 2011.

The Airport Link project is the largest infrastructure construction currently underway in Australia.

The Airport Link and Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) are on schedule for completion by mid 2012, with the Airport Roundabout Upgrade set to open first in 2011.

ENDS

Media contact: Deirdre McCue, Manager Communication and Community Relations, 0402 781 523