

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Airport Link Bowen Hills structures achieve another milestone

The closure over the weekend of the ICB and Clem 7 has allowed the Airport Link project to complete a 56-hour engineering feat with the installation of four massive bridge beams weighing up to 75-tonnes each, 25 metres above the ground.

'Bridge 104' is the highest of the 12 bridges being built for the Airport Link projects at Bowen Hills. Once complete, it will link the Airport Link tunnel to the Inner City Bypass city bound.

Thiess John Holland Project Director Gordon Ralph said with 15 months of construction remaining, residents would see many more structures taking shape along the alignment.

"The weekend's activity was very complex and required an enormous 600 tonne crane to install the four massive bridge beams which ranged in size from 53 metres to 35 metres," Mr Ralph said.

"A total of 15 spans of the 21-span bridge have now been installed and work will soon be underway to install the final steel and concrete spans over Breakfast Creek," he said.

Mr Ralph congratulated the team of 50 people who were directly involved in the intense, carefully planned 56-hour operation.

"Due to the beams sitting 12.5 metres above the ICB ramps, the Airport Link Project was required to close sections of the ICB and the Clem 7 over the weekend," Mr Ralph said.

"We apologise for any inconvenience caused to motorists over the weekend," he said.

"These closures have allowed us to get the work done quickly, ensuring minimal impact to the community. Now that this work is complete, we can now focus on the installation of the final beams and progress with the finishing work.

"Since construction began in November 2008 over 10 kilometres of tunnels have been excavated.

CEO of BrisConnections Dr Ray Wilson said construction spending on these vital projects is now at the \$3 billion mark with 70% of the Airport Link projects now complete.

"On completion of the Airport Link projects, traffic on Lutwyche Road will be reduced by up to 40%," Dr Wilson said.

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



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“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.

## **ENDS**

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