



Hon. Andrew Fraser MP  
Member for Mount Coot-tha



Treasurer  
Minister for State Development  
and Trade

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## **AIRPORT LINK PROJECT ROADHEADER TUNNELLING COMPLETE**

Tunnelling on Australia's largest infrastructure project is another step closer to completion with the final roadheader on the project being removed from Airport Link's Truro Street worksite tonight.

Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade Andrew Fraser said over 10 kilometres of tunnelling was now complete on the Airport Link and Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) projects, which require a total of 15 kilometres of tunnelling for the road and busway tunnels and connecting ramps.

"Since tunnelling commenced at Truro Street in March 2009, a total of 17 roadheaders have been used to carve out the network of tunnels below Brisbane's northside," Mr Fraser said.

"This is the largest number of roadheaders ever used on an Australian project. The 135 tonne machines have worked in conjunction with the two massive Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs), which are now nearly 70% through their 2.5 kilometre journey from Kalinga Park to Lutwyche. The TBMs are now past Kedron Park High School and moving towards the Kedron Park Hotel.

"It is expected that tunnelling across the projects will be completed mid-year when Rocksy and Sandy, the TBMs, finish their journey to Lutwyche and are buried deep underground," he said.

Mr Fraser said construction was progressing steadily, with project employment reaching a peak of 4,200 people.

"Last month alone, over one million hours was worked. A total of 17.8 million hours have been worked since the first sod was turned in November 2008," the Treasurer said.

Thiess John Holland Project Director Gordon Ralph said another sign of project progress was the start of the demobilisation of the Truro Street spoil shed this month.

"Truro Street's spoil shed was one of the first pieces of temporary infrastructure to be installed on the project in January 2009," he said.

"The shed which is eight metres high, will be progressively dismantled, with the eastern site office buildings to be relocated to enable the shed to be removed."

BrisConnections CEO, Dr Ray Wilson said 77% of the projects were complete, over \$3.2 billion has been spent and the projects were on track for June 2012 completion date.

Australia's largest infrastructure project includes the Airport Link toll road between Bowen Hills and Toombul, the Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) and the Airport Roundabout Upgrade. When it opens in mid 2012, Airport Link will be the first major motorway connecting Brisbane city with the airport and northern suburbs.

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

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.

Key Facts:

- 77% of construction complete
- 4,200 workers
- 17.8 million hours worked
- 10 kilometres of tunnelling complete
- 90% of spoil excavated
- \$3.2 billion spent
- Over half a million community notifications distributed