



Hon. Andrew Fraser MP
Member for Mount Coot-tha



Treasurer
Minister for State Development
and Trade

30 May 2011

New intersection opens ahead of schedule

Drivers are travelling along Sandgate Road's final road alignment this morning, after the Airport Link project opened the new Sandgate/East West Arterial Road signalised intersection, five weeks ahead of schedule.

Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade Andrew Fraser said the new intersection replaced the temporary roundabout, which kept more than 48,000 vehicles moving each day during the five month construction of the Sandgate Road bridge.

"The roundabout was opened late last year to allow work to occur in the centre of East West Arterial Road and under Sandgate Road for the Toombul Gateway into the Airport Link tunnel," the Treasurer said.

"Last month, 48 pre-cast bridge deck units were installed in the middle of the temporary roundabout to transform the intersection into a bridge.

"Construction of the bridge has involved the use of 1,600m³ of concrete and 165 tonnes of steel reinforcement," he said.

Mr Fraser said out of a total of 15 kilometres of tunnels, 12 kilometres of excavation had been completed to date, with tunnelling expected to cease mid-year.

"More than 18 million hours have been worked since construction commenced in November 2008 and the projects have surpassed their expected peak employment bringing the jobs total to 4,200," he said.

Thiess John Holland Project Director Gordon Ralph congratulated the Toombul Roads and Bridges Team for the early opening, which sees traffic travelling on top of the recently constructed Sandgate Road bridge.

"Approximately 18,000 hours were worked by a team of 50 people to build the bridge which enables the Airport Link tunnel on and off-ramps to be constructed underneath," Mr Ralph said.

"These on and off-ramps will ultimately connect the Airport Link tunnel portal with East West Arterial Road, beneath Sandgate Road.

"Sandgate Road widening works are continuing and work will commence soon on the steel support frames for the Toombul portal's Living Green Wall," he said.

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.

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

“It will improve travel times, providing six new lanes for drivers between Bowen Hills and Kedron and four new lanes between Kedron and Toombul,” he said.

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.

Key Facts:

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

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