



Next piece of Brisbane's Busway network only nine months away

With the latest stage of Brisbane's Eastern Busway now open, Premier Anna Bligh today inspected works on the Queensland Government's next congestion busting project for Brisbane - the Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron).

The Premier walked underground from Lutwyche to Kedron, through the 300 metres of tunnel that will slash bus travel times by up to half from the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital at Windsor to Kedron.

Works on the current stage of the \$444 million Northern Busway are on track for completion by mid-2012 and Ms Bligh said it would bring a welcome relief to northside commuters.

"Today, congestion on Lutwyche Road can mean a peak hour bus journey between Kedron and Bowen Hills will take up to 30 minutes, but it's expected the average journey will be halved when the busway opens next year," Ms Bligh said.

"And by 2016, this congestion busting project will mean northsiders have access to a bus every 30 seconds in peak hour, increasing to a bus every 20 seconds by 2026. Every full bus takes 40 cars off the road.

"Construction on the project is now over 60 per cent complete. Nearly 700,000 hours have been worked on the Busway to-date, by a team of around 450 workers.

"With tunnelling finished, mechanical and electrical fit-out is underway inside the 1.5 kilometres of busway tunnel.

"Construction of both the Lutwyche and Kedron Brook busway stations commenced in March, with the internal fit-out also well underway including the installation of electrical services, glass and tiles," she said.

Premier Bligh said the Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) - would provide 1.5 kilometres of tunnel, two state-of-the-art busway stations at Lutwyche and Kedron Brook, and eight new bus stops, and was designed to re-connect local communities with pedestrian and cycle access and new green space from Bradshaw Park to Kedron Brook.

"The Lutwyche busway station will include an underpass to allow pedestrians and cyclists to access inbound and outbound platforms without crossing busy Lutwyche Road," she said.

"Kedron Brook busway station will have a passenger drop-off zone, increased access and safety for pedestrians and cyclists with enhanced pathway

networks, the Kedron Brook busway bridge, the re-alignment of Perry Street and signalised crossings at Lutwyche Road.”

Thiess John Holland Project Director Gordon Ralph congratulated the Northern Busway team on their progress to date.

“We have excavated the entire 1.5kms of tunnel, poured 10,000m³ of concrete to line the tunnel, driven approximately 1,250 piles, and laid around 1,200 tonnes of asphalt,” Mr Ralph said.

BrisConnections CEO Dr Ray Wilson said the combined Airport Link projects were now 84 percent complete and on schedule for completion in mid 2012.

“We’re proud to be building this vital section of Brisbane’s growing busway network,” Dr Wilson said.

Once construction is complete, the Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) will be handed over to the Queensland Government for final fit- out and commissioning by TransLink.

Prior to opening, TransLink network planners will review local services to maximise the reliability and faster travel times offered by the new busway.

The Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) is part of a busway network for Brisbane that will eventually span the city and will combine with the existing rail network to enhance the city’s major public transport system.

When complete, the Northern Busway will be a vital link in the expanding busway network and will reduce travel times for people travelling to and from Windsor, Lutwyche, Kedron, Chermside, Aspley and Bracken Ridge.

The Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) is being built by Thiess John Holland in conjunction with the Airport Link project.

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