

MEDIA RELEASE

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Airport Link's Living Green Wall

From next week the unique "Living Green Wall" will start to take shape at the Airport Link tunnel portal at Toombul.

Project Director, Gordon Ralph said the living wall was a unique design feature of the project and will be installed along the walls of the portal from East West Arterial Road into the tunnel in the coming weeks.

"The living green wall will become an important sign-post for local and international visitors as they head towards the city of Brisbane," Mr Ralph said.

"It will span 155m along both sides of the tunnel and will be 4.5m at its highest point.

"The wall is being installed this month to ensure the plants are well established when the road opens for business next year.

"It will contain a variety of plant species reflecting subtropical Queensland and is the first of its kind in Australia, requiring extensive planning taking into consideration Brisbane's climate and the surrounding environment.

"To ensure the plants thrive, they have been grown at a local nursery in the same north and south direction as the portal walls.

"Sixty-eight different species of plants, used in 44 different arrangements, will come together to create the wall," Mr Ralph said.

"Earlier this year they were transferred into 308 specialised light-weight baskets ready for installation onto the portal walls.

"A sophisticated electronic irrigation system will be installed to remotely monitor and adjust settings. It will take approximately three weeks for all the baskets to be installed."

Greenstock Nursery, in Griffin on Brisbane's northside, started growing the plants in September 2010.

Airport Link will be a vital addition to Brisbane's road network, providing a critical new link between two of South East Queensland's most important economic centres – the airport and the city.

On schedule for completion in June 2012, \$3 billion has been spent so far and the Airport Link project is 90% complete. A total of 15 kilometres of tunnel and ramps has been bored and lined.

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