

MEDIA RELEASE

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Airport Link celebrates 3 years of construction with only eight months to go

Australia's largest and most complex road infrastructure project – Airport Link – marks its third year of construction this month.

With just eight months of construction remaining, the project is now 90% complete.

Since November 2008 the project has:

- Spent \$3.75 Billion building Airport Link, the Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) and the Airport Roundabout Upgrade
- Worked 25 million hours
- Employed over 4,500 people
- Bored and lined 15 kilometres of tunnel and ramps
- Installed more than 1,400 bridge beams
- Laid more than 460kms of cable
- Poured more than 800,000m³ of concrete
- Replaced hundreds of kilometres of water, power and sewer services.
- Distributed more than 1 million notifications to local residents and businesses
- Had more than 10,000 visitors in the project's Information Centre

Thiess John Holland Project Director Gordon Ralph said thousands of men and women have worked incredibly hard over the past three years and 3,500 people are still working to complete the massive project.

"Nowhere is the result of this hard work more apparent than at Kedron where the combination of tunnels, entrance and exit portals, on and off ramps, and surface roads and bridges make this one of the most complex sections of the entire project," Mr Ralph said.

"Since July 2011, 24 steel girders, 12 Super Ts and 158 concrete bridge beams have been installed to construct the 10 metre high flyovers, which will provide access out of the Airport Link tunnels for traffic headed northbound along Gympie Road and westbound along Stafford Road.

"The beams measure up to 53 metres in length and weigh between 35 and 64 tonnes.

"Underground, tunnel excavation is complete and the final concrete pour to complete the tunnel floors in Kedron happened at the beginning of this month. The mechanical and electrical fit out of the tunnels is now underway and asphalt is being laid.

"This is the largest infrastructure project in Australia with many complex engineering elements. I am very proud of what our team has achieved to date and we look forward to celebrating many more milestones as we progress towards our 30 June 2012 completion date," Mr Ralph said.

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BrisConnections CEO Ray Wilson said this project will not only revolutionise how motorists move around Brisbane, but will also transform the suburbs along the corridor.

“With tunnelling now complete, construction activities are focussed on fitting out the tunnels and connecting them to the existing road network, while also providing improved pedestrian connectivity with extensive new pathways and landscaping at the three project gateways of Kedron, Toombul and Bowen Hills.

“Thirteen kilometres of new and upgraded cycle and pathways are being delivered as part of the project, and more than three hectares of new parkland will be provided to the community at completion.

“In Kedron alone, 142,000 trees, plants and shrubs will be planted and more than 5,000 square metres of turf will be laid along the banks of Kedron Brook and the main road corridors in the area.

“With the Airport Link Operations Centre located on Stafford Road, Kedron will remain the focus of the project once the tunnel opens to traffic next year,” Mr Wilson said.

Airport Link, 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.

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