

Joint Statement:

**Premier and Minister for the Arts
The Honourable Anna Bligh**

**Minister for Infrastructure and Planning
The Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe**

Monday, November 08, 2010

NEW AIRPORT FLYOVER OPEN

Today motorists are soaring 20 metres above the Airport Roundabout on our newest bridge, the Airport Flyover, reducing travel times to the Airport by up to 10 minutes.

Premier Anna Bligh said the eastbound lanes opened to cars overnight, a year before the original scheduled completion date of November 2011.

"A break in the wet weather over the weekend has allowed the project team to complete the final asphaltting and line-marking for the flyover, with the eastbound lanes opening in the early hours of this morning," Ms Bligh said.

"When all the lanes on the flyover are open by Christmas, 3,600 vehicles an hour will be able to cross the overpass to get to and from the Airport.

"Once complete, the 20m-high flyover will be handed to the Department of Transport and Main Roads to manage and will be free for all drivers."

Minister for Infrastructure and Planning Stirling Hinchliffe said the opening was great news for Brisbane and advised motorists travelling to the Airport to drive carefully and look for changed traffic conditions and directional signs.

"This coming weekend, weather permitting, a full closure of the Airport Roundabout is also required to facilitate work on the fast diamond intersection. When it begins operating, Brisbane's most hated intersection, the Airport Roundabout, will be eliminated forever," Mr Hinchliffe said.

Thiess John Holland Project Director Gordon Ralph congratulated the team of up to 400 workers who had contributed to the Airport Roundabout Upgrade project since construction began in April 2009.

CEO of BrisConnections Dr Ray Wilson said when the Airport Link project is finished in 2012, access to the Brisbane Airport for motorists will be better than any other airport in Australia.

The project involves:

- Constructing a new four lane 750m bridge linking East West Arterial Road and Airport Drive over the Gateway Motorway overpass
- Replacing the existing Gateway Motorway overpass at the roundabout with a new four lane overpass
- Replacing the existing roundabout with a high capacity signalised intersection
- The upgrade of the intersection at East West Arterial and Nudgee Roads
- Widening of East West Arterial Road to three traffic lanes in each direction
- Improved connections to the airport precinct, the Gateway Motorway and Kingsford Smith Drive and

- Surface road improvements to Airport Drive.

Visit www.brisconnections.com.au to register for SMS and email updates on traffic changes and project progress.

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