



Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP
Member for Stafford



Minister for Infrastructure and Planning

Thursday 1 July 2010

Name Australia's largest Tunnel Boring Machines

Minister for Infrastructure and Planning Stirling Hinchliffe has challenged Brisbane to come up with innovative names for the Airport Link's two massive Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs).

Mr Hinchliffe said workers on the Airport Link Project celebrated another significant milestone with the lowering of the project's second Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) cutterhead into the ground at Kalinga Park today.

He said with assembly of the TBMs now well underway, Brisbane residents were being given the exclusive opportunity to come on-site and view the massive machines at an upcoming open day - as well as helping the project team come up with names for them.

"We're asking students across Brisbane to put their thinking caps on and help the project team come up with names for these massive machines," Mr Hinchliffe said.

"In keeping with tunnelling tradition, we're asking everyone to submit female names as their entries.

"If a student proposes a winning name, he or she will win the chance to take two of their friends on-site to join project workers when the first Tunnel Boring Machine starts tunnelling.

"Also this month, 2000 lucky Brisbane residents will have the opportunity to view the two TBMs before they are launched.

"Each machine will travel 2.5km from Toombul to Lutwyche as deep as 55m underground.

"Attendees to the Community Open Day on Sunday 18 July will be treated to an exclusive guided site tour of the Kalinga Park worksite as well as children's entertainment, information displays and a free sausage sizzle," he said

To obtain your free ticket to the Open Day or to register your suggestion for the TBM naming competition visit the Airport Link project website at www.brisconnections.com.au and enter your details.

The online TBM naming competition still has two more weeks to run. The lucky winner will be announced in mid July and will receive an invitation to join site workers when the first TBM starts excavation.

Thiess John Holland Project Director Gordon Ralph said the Tunnel Boring Machines would soon begin their 12 month journey from Toombul to Lutwyche.

"In late July, the first TBM is expected to commence excavation in the eastbound tunnel with the second machine scheduled to get underway in the westbound tunnel one month later," Mr Ralph said.

"These two Tunnel Boring Machines, the largest to ever to operate in Australia, are highly effective in both soft and hard ground conditions and have the ability to cut through rock six to eight times harder than concrete.

"The two \$45 million TBMs have been progressively assembled by a dedicated crew of approximately 80 people inside the giant launch box which measures 105m long x 35m wide x 22m deep.



Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP
Member for Stafford



Minister for Infrastructure and Planning

“Once operational, each TBM requires up to 22 workers to operate the machine with a custom-built covered conveyor system operating 24 hours a day to transport the TBM spoil from Kalinga Park directly to the project’s spoil handling facility on Nudgee Road.”

Construction of the Airport Link tunnel is being undertaken using a combination of Tunnel Boring Machines, Roadheader machines and cut-and-cover tunnelling.

The State Government’s \$4.8 billion Airport Link project is the largest infrastructure construction currently underway in Australia. The Airport Link and Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) are on schedule for completion by mid 2012, with the Airport Roundabout Upgrade set to open first in 2011.

CONTACT: 3224 8750