



**MARCH 13, 2010**

**AIRPORT LINK SPOIL CONVEYOR TO MINIMISE 80,000 TRUCK MOVEMENTS**

Construction has commenced on a spoil conveyor for the Airport Link project which will ultimately eliminate 80,000 truck movements from local roads on Brisbane's Northside.

Premier Anna Bligh and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning Stirling Hinchliffe said this was welcome news for the local community who have been patient while construction continues at the Kalinga Park worksite.

"The two kilometre conveyor is expected to transport approximately 1.1 million tonnes of soil excavated by the Tunnel Boring Machines, which will begin operating at in site in the next few months," Ms Bligh said.

"2,600 tonnes of spoil, equivalent to approximately 81 truck and dog trailer loads, will be moved every hour by the conveyor which is now under construction.

"This is of great benefit to the residents of Toombul and Clayfield, who will not have to endure large volumes trucks using local roads daily for the purpose of moving spoil from the Airport Link tunnels.

"The massive growth that Brisbane is experiencing means we must build infrastructure like this to ultimately improve the quality of life for people in the city and communities across SEQ.

"Unfortunately construction on this scale means some disruption but measures such as these are [an](#) example of the efforts that are being made to mitigate these growing pains."

The project passed another milestone this month, with employment reaching a peak of 2,700 workers. Currently over 6 millions hours has been worked on the project to date.

The conveyor will operate between the TBM launch box in Kalinga Park and Nudgee Road, Hendra.

The Minister said the country's two largest diameter cutterhead Tunnel Boring Machines will commence tunnelling from Kalinga Park in the first half of this year and will travel east toward Lutwyche, excavating twin 5.1 kilometre tunnels for Airport Link

"Tunnelling by the TBM's is expected to take just over twelve months to complete. During this time, the conveyor will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week," he said.

The two kilometre conveyor will be covered and loaded into acoustic sheds at either end to minimise dust impacts to local residents, businesses and drivers on the East West Arterial.

Spoil will be hauled from the Nudgee Road shed, 24 hours a day, six days a week, via the Gateway Motorway at Toombul Road.

The Airport Link project is being constructed together with the Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron), and requires a total of 15 kilometres of tunnelling.

A total of 12 roadheader machines are tunnelling between Bowen Hills and Kedron to excavate the Airport Link northbound and southbound tunnels, with more than 3.3 kilometres of tunnel excavated to date.

Major surface work is underway in Bowen Hills, Kedron and Toombul for 'cut and cover' construction of on and off-ramps that will connect these three precincts with the Airport Link tunnel network.

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.

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