

MEDIA RELEASE

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Massive concrete pour in north Brisbane - largest for Airport Link Project

An enormous engineering feat will be carried out by Thiess John Holland tonight, February 25, with a 15-hour operation to lay 2,800 cubic metres of concrete to complete a section of the Airport Link tunnel roof in Kedron, Brisbane north.

A team of 50 people will work 'round the clock from 10pm through to midday Friday to undertake one continuous pour - the largest ever concrete pour for construction of the Airport Link Project.

A total of 380 concrete trucks will be used for the pour, approximately 37 trucks every hour, requiring meticulous planning and scheduling of vehicle deliveries to the Kedron site.

Traffic management will be in place to facilitate concrete trucks entering and exiting the work site from Gympie Road, minimising disruption to motorists.

Project Director Gordon Ralph said the concrete pour will complete the Airport Link tunnel roof being constructed on the northern side of Kedron Brook, the section of tunnel that will ultimately take motorists travelling south on Gympie Road to Toombul and Brisbane airport, or the city.

"Four concrete pumps will be used and approximately 300 cubic metres of concrete will be poured every hour for the slab forming the tunnel roof," said Mr Ralph.

"This concrete slab will join with another section of tunnel roof which has already been laid beneath the Kedron Brook.

"By using this cut and cover construction technique, the tunnel roof is built first allowing us to excavate the Airport Link tunnel beneath it while other construction work and traffic diversions can occur at the surface level.

"At this location in Kedron north, it allows us to excavate the Airport Link tunnel and at the same time undertake complex work to re-align the intersection of Stafford and Gympie Roads, opening up the area for construction of the Northern Busway tunnel and Airport Link on-ramp," said Mr Ralph.

The Gympie and Stafford Road intersection will be re-aligned approximately 50 metres south-east during April 2010, and during this time traffic will be switched to travel on a temporary road alignment.

Preparation for the traffic switch will include road widening work, pavement construction, line marking, barrier and sign installation.

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Prior to the large concrete pour this Friday, preparatory work including the installation of 700 tonnes of reo steel was carried out for reinforcement and support of the Airport Link tunnel.

Airport Link is being constructed together with the Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) and Airport Roundabout Upgrade, forming Australia's largest infrastructure project.

A total of 831,000 cubic metres of concrete and 100,000 tonnes of reinforced steel will be used for construction of the combined projects.

To date six million hours have been worked to design and construct the projects by a team of 2,500 personnel, and Thiess John Holland expects to reach peak employment mid-year when more than 2,600 people are working on the project.

When complete in mid 2012, Airport Link will be the first major motorway connecting Brisbane city to the northern suburbs and airport precinct. The 6.7 kilometre Airport Link toll road will have three entry and exit points located at Bowen Hills, Kedron and Toombul.

Construction of Airport Link, the longest road tunnel in Australia, will comprise twin 5.1 kilometre tunnels excavated using tunnel boring machines, roadheaders and cut and cover construction techniques.

The Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron), scheduled to open prior to Airport Link, will connect with stage one of the Northern Busway at Bowen Bridge Road in Windsor, and extend to Kedron via the Lutwyche Road/ Gympie Road corridor.

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