



PREMIER FIRST TO DRIVE AIRPORT LINK TUNNEL

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh became the first person to officially drive the Airport Link tunnel today- underground from Bowen Hills to Toombul- marking a major milestone for the project.

Australia's largest and most complex road infrastructure project is now more than 95 per cent complete with just five months of construction remaining.

The Premier said the Airport Link was the centrepiece of a massive \$4.8 billion infrastructure investment on Brisbane's Northside which will slash travel times for motorists.

"This is a significant moment in the history of Brisbane's development," Ms Bligh said.

"When Airport Link opens to motorists, drivers will be able to travel the 6.7 kilometres between Bowen Hills and Toombul in under five minutes*, avoiding 18 sets of traffic lights along the way.

"The toll road will add six lanes of new roadway under Lutwyche Road and four extra lanes between Kedron and Toombul. Motorists will be able to enter and exit the tunnel at Bowen Hills, Kedron and Toombul," Ms Bligh said.

The Premier thanked the thousands of men and women who have worked so hard over the past three years and congratulated the 3,400 people who are still working to complete this massive project.

To construct this complex project, 15 kilometres of tunnel and ramps has been bored and lined, 800,000m³ of concrete has been poured and more than 500kms of cable has been laid," Ms Bligh said.

Underground, tunnelling is complete, with mechanical and electrical fit out underway and asphalt being laid.

The deep shafts at Truro Street, Windsor and Rose Street, Wooloowin are no longer in use for tunneling and those sites are now being decommissioned.

At Toombul work is well advanced to finish the tunnel entrances and exits, and the Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) is on schedule for completion in late April.

The Premier thanked the local community who have been living and working amongst the construction activity taking place in their neighbourhoods.

BrisConnections CEO Ray Wilson said the opening of Airport Link will make a huge difference to lives of Northside residents.

"This vital road will help drivers save up to 2.5 hours per week," he said.

"Mid-year, drivers will travel on Airport Link between Bowen Hills to Kedron in just three and a half minutes.

Traffic consulting firm TTM Group found that Airport Link will provide travel time savings of up to 20 minutes in peak hour on some journeys and reduce travel times by as much as 88 per cent.

Thiess John Holland Project Director Gordon Ralph said this is the largest infrastructure project in Australia with many complex engineering feats.

“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,” he said.

Airport Link is being designed and constructed by Thiess John Holland, along with the Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) and the Airport Roundabout Upgrade.

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

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