



Hon. Andrew Fraser MP
Member for Mount Coot-tha



Treasurer
Minister for State Development
and Trade

25 July 2011

New six lane bridge opens on Gympie Road

Drivers travelling along Gympie Road today are using a new six lane bridge over Kedron Brook.

Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade Andrew Fraser said this was the final major traffic change for the Airport Link project and a significant milestone.

"It's exciting to now see traffic travelling along the final alignment of Gympie Road, which is part of the permanent design of the Airport Link project," Mr Fraser said.

"I congratulate the Airport Link team on the completion of another element of this vital project.

"Since 2009, commuters in the northern suburbs have seen over 50 separate traffic switches, many on one of Brisbane's busiest arterial roads.

"As Gympie Road carries more than 60,000 vehicles a day, it has been a great challenge for the project team to keeping traffic flowing. I congratulate them on a job well done and thank motorists for their patience."

Construction of the new bridge required 136 pre-cast beams to be installed on the eastern side of Gympie Road over Kedron Brook. Weighing 40 tonnes each and measuring 26 metres long, the beams were installed over nine nights.

Mr Fraser said this traffic switch was unique in that not only required the construction of a new bridge, but it also required completion of a backfilling operation alongside Gympie Road.

"To allow construction of the Airport Link tunnel on ramps at Kedron a massive excavation was dug at the front of the Kedron Brook Building. A total of 76,000m³ of material, equivalent to 30 Olympic sized swimming pools, was required to fill in the excavation after the tunnels were completed," he said.

"Taking approximately 8 weeks, the 30 metre deep cut-and-cover structure was filled, ready for the road to be constructed on top."

Thiess John Holland Project Director Gordon Ralph said now that the switch has been successfully completed, the existing Gympie Road bridge will be demolished over the coming days to allow for construction of the Airport Link flyovers and new Northern Busway Bridge.

"The demolition involves the step by step removal of sections of the old bridge and support structures," Mr Ralph said.

"The demolition of the old Gympie Road bridge will be undertaken over four days, with the bridge decks and piers removed first, followed by the reinforced earth wall and the earth mound embankments. The bridge decks are removed piece by piece, with an exclusion zone in place to ensure worker and community safety."

BrisConnections' CEO Dr Ray Wilson said the projects were on track for June 2012 completion date.

"When Airport Link opens it will be the first major motorway connecting Brisbane city with the airport and northern suburbs," Dr Wilson said.

"It will improve travel times, providing six new lanes for drivers between Bowen Hills and Kedron and four new lanes between Kedron and Toombul."

The project, which is being designed and constructed by Thiess John Holland, along with the Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) and the Airport Roundabout Upgrade, is part of a massive \$4.8 billion infrastructure investment on Brisbane's Northside.

Media contact: Treasurer's office – 3224 4551