

**Minister for Infrastructure and Planning
The Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe**

Monday, November 15, 2010

BRISBANE'S WORST BOTTLENECK ELIMINATED

Brisbane's worst bottleneck the Airport Roundabout has been demolished and replaced with a signalised 'fast diamond' intersection, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning Stirling Hinchliffe announced today.

Mr Hinchliffe said over the weekend the old roundabout was removed and the fast diamond installed. The new intersection is constructed in a diamond formation and responds to traffic as it arrives as opposed to a tradition timed signal system.

"Today Brisbane's most hated intersection, the Airport Roundabout, has been eliminated forever," Mr Hinchliffe said.

"Every year 17 million vehicles use this intersection and I'm pleased to say the fast diamond will change the way motorists travel through the region.

"Over the last couple of months, phased construction has been underway on the fast diamond intersection with the final sections of new road replaced when the roundabout closed for good on Friday night.

"The crews have worked around the clock as they completed the realignment of the fast diamond intersection to convert the roundabout including new traffic signals and road signage.

"On the ground, the fast diamond will be able to control all four turning movements as well as straight through movements with traffic signals, while overhead, 3,600 vehicles an hour will be able to cross the Flyover to get to and from the Airport.

"Free for drivers, the first eastbound lanes of the Flyover opened a year ahead of schedule."

He said the State Government's \$327 million Airport Roundabout Upgrade project would cut 10 minutes off travel times to the Airport. The westbound lanes of the Flyover are expected to open before Christmas.

"I would like to thank motorists for their patience over the weekend while the final works to demolish the roundabout were completed," Mr Hinchliffe said.

"Signage is in place at the approaches to the new intersection to help drivers find their way to Nudgee Road, the Southern Cross Way and Airport Drive.

"With the fast diamond now complete, the focus will shift to finishing works and opening the westbound lanes of the Airport Flyover before Christmas."

Thiess John Holland Project Director Gordon Ralph congratulated the team of up to 400 workers who contributed to the Airport Roundabout Upgrade.

"These workers are part of a team of people who are constructing the largest road infrastructure project ever built in Australia," Mr Ralph said.

CEO of BrisConnections Dr Ray Wilson said when the Airport Link project finished in 2012, access to the Airport would be the best in the country.

The project involves:

- Constructing a new four lane 750m bridge linking East West Arterial Road and Airport Drive over the Gateway Motorway overpass
- Replacing the existing Gateway Motorway overpass at the roundabout with a new four lane overpass
- Replacing the existing roundabout with a high capacity signalised intersection
- The upgrade of the intersection at East West Arterial and Nudgee Roads
- Widening of East West Arterial Road to three traffic lanes in each direction
- Improved connections to the airport precinct, the Gateway Motorway and Kingsford Smith Drive and
- Surface road improvements to Airport Drive.

Visit www.brisconnections.com.au to register for SMS and email updates on traffic changes and project progress.

Media: 0417 815 223