



JOINT STATEMENT

PUBLIC INVITED TO COMMENT ON AIRPORT LINK STUDY

The Queensland Co-ordinator-General has declared Brisbane's proposed Airport Link underground toll road a significant project.

Premier Peter Beattie and Lord Mayor Campbell Newman welcomed the Co-ordinator-General's decision, which under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 (Qld) requires an Environmental Impact Statement to be prepared on the proposal.

"Airport Link has been declared a significant project because of its strategic role in South-East Queensland's future transport network," Mr Beattie said.

"If we are to meet South East Queensland's future growth demands, Brisbane must have an integrated transport network that is safe, attractive and efficient.

"Airport Link will help to achieve this as part of the overall strategy of improving the efficiency of Brisbane's road network."

Councillor Newman urged Brisbane residents to have their say on what the Airport Link environmental impact statement should consider by making submissions for the statement's terms of reference, which are available in draft form for public comment.

Cr Newman said the statement would involve an in-depth investigation of local issues related to the construction and operation of Airport Link, which was proposed to connect Brisbane's northern suburbs to the Inner City Bypass and proposed North-South Bypass Tunnel at Bowen Hills.

"The terms of reference will guide the preparation of the environmental impact statement during phase two of the Airport Link Detailed Feasibility Study between now and mid-2006," he said.

Cr Newman said the release of the draft terms of reference provided Brisbane residents with an important opportunity to help shape Brisbane's future road network.

"The decisions we make on Airport Link will be crucial in achieving the best possible transport solution not just for Brisbane's northern suburbs, but ultimately for our entire city," he said.

"This is about getting it right for the people of Brisbane. That's why it's important that we receive input from residents now on what they think the environmental impact study should consider. We need to know what's important to them."

Cr Newman said the statement would include further community consultation to help find ways to minimise the potential impacts and maximise the potential benefits of Airport Link.

Investigations will take place in the preferred corridor, which generally follows Lutwyche Road from Bowen Hills to Kedron and across to Toombul, and was identified during phase one of the detailed feasibility study.

Copies of the draft terms of reference are available on the Coordinator-General's website at www.coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au

Copies are also available at Queensland Transport offices in Spring Hill and Chermside, selected libraries in Brisbane's northern suburbs and at Airport Link community information sessions and staffed library displays.

A full list of displays of the draft terms of reference is available on the Airport Link technical website at www.airportlinkeis.com or by phoning 1800 99 00 38.

The draft terms of reference submissions period is just over six weeks, with written submissions to be accepted by the Co-ordinator-General until the close of business on Wednesday, December 21, 2005.

Submissions should be typed in black ink on A4 paper (for copying) and addressed to:

The Co-ordinator-General
Attention: Airport Link EIS Project Manager
PO Box 15009
City East Brisbane QLD 4002.

Phase two of the Airport Link Detailed Feasibility Study will be conducted between November 2005 and July 2006.

The environmental impact statement is due to be available for public comment by mid 2006.

Airport Link is part of the Queensland Government's South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program and Brisbane City Council's Transport Plan, TransApex.

11 November, 2005

Media inquiries:

Premier's office: 3224 4500

Lord Mayor's office: Francis Quinlivan 3403 4832 or 0408 709 160