



## **COMMUNITY URGED TO TAKE PART IN FIRST ROUND OF CONSULTATION**

Brisbane residents are urged to participate in the community consultation process for the first phase of the Airport Link Detailed Feasibility Study that is being carried out by the Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council.

Premier Peter Beattie and Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman said community input into the Airport Link corridor investigation would be crucial in achieving the best-possible transport solution for Brisbane's northern suburbs.

"The primary purpose of Airport Link is to relieve traffic congestion and promote free-flowing traffic in Brisbane's northern suburbs," Mr Beattie said.

"Proposed as a mainly underground toll road between Brisbane's northern suburbs and the CBD bypass network, Airport Link has the potential to deliver far-reaching improvements in the quality of life of people who live in the northern suburbs and those who travel through them.

"But before we can move forward with the proposal we must first identify a preferred corridor for detailed investigation and evaluation.

"Right now we know only this – that to successfully relieve traffic congestion and promote free-flowing traffic in Brisbane's northern suburbs, Airport Link will need to connect the northern arterials of Gympie Road, Sandgate Road and the Gateway Motorway (via the East-West Arterial) to the Inner City Bypass and the proposed North-South Bypass Tunnel at Bowen Hills.

"What we don't know yet is how Airport Link will connect to these roads. That's where it becomes important for the project team to know now what is important to people living and working in the northern suburbs."

Councillor Newman said many community consultation activities had been planned in the coming weeks to help people understand the Airport Link proposal and allow them to speak directly to members of the project team.

"Four staffed library displays and four community information sessions will be held in coming weeks, which will give people an introduction to the Airport Link proposal and the chance to speak to the project team," Cr Newman said.

"The community information sessions will also give people more detailed information and the opportunity to speak to a range of experts from the project team, including traffic and transport consultants, engineers and environmental planners."

Cr Newman said local residents living and working in the study area would receive a copy of the first Airport Link newsletter this week.

"I encourage people to read this newsletter, visit a staffed library display, come along to a community information session or phone the Airport Link information line to make sure their views are considered during the corridor investigation."

**Staffed library displays** planned during the corridor investigation include:

- Saturday 27 August, 9.30am to 11.30am – Grange Library;
- Saturday 27 August, 9.30am to 11.30am – Chermside Library;
- Saturday 10 September, 9.30am to 11.30am – Nundah Library; and
- Saturday 10 September, 9.30am to 11.30am – Hamilton Library.

**Community information sessions** include:

- Thursday 1 September, 5pm to 8pm – Brisbane Strikers Football Club, Bowen Hills;
- Friday 2 September, 11am to 2pm – King George Square, City;
- Saturday 3 September, 9.30am to 12.30pm – Kedron High School, Kedron; and
- Saturday 3 September, 1.30pm to 4.30pm – Hendra-Nundah Bowls Club, Hendra.

Cr Newman said that when identifying a preferred corridor for Airport Link the project team would consider traffic and transport issues; tunnel connections to existing roads; opportunities to improve public transport; and environmental issues.

"The project team will also consider environmental issues; land use patterns; social and community benefits and impacts; construction methods, impacts and costs; affordability; economic development opportunities; and engineering issues such as geological (ground) conditions and stormwater management."

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

The detailed feasibility study is expected take about 12 months to complete and cost about \$21 million, with the Queensland Government committing \$16 million and Council \$5 million.

For further information contact **1800 99 00 38** or visit **[www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/airportlink](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/airportlink)**.

## **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

**Premier's office:** 3224 4500

**Lord Mayor's office:** 3403 4832

August 19, 2005.