



19 May 2008

## **\$5m assistance package for two north Brisbane schools**

Two north Brisbane schools will receive a \$5.5 million assistance package to cope with construction impacts from the Airport Link and Northern Busway projects, Premier Anna Bligh announced today.

Ms Bligh said the State Government would pay Education Queensland \$5.5m in funding towards a new indoor sports facility that will offset the temporary loss of a sports field at Kedron State High School.

The funding will also be used to cover the cost of air-conditioning Kedron High and Woolloowin State School as part of noise reduction measures.

“Now that a successful bidder has been announced, I am delighted to honour our commitment to support these two schools,” Ms Bligh said.

“This funding will not only offset construction impacts but will mean lasting benefits for generations of students to come.

“Kedron High will benefit from a new indoor sports hall which will be a fantastic boost to school facilities and a great legacy from these two projects.

“Air-conditioning both schools will also go a long way towards alleviating any construction noise impacts and will provide a more comfortable learning environment into the future.

“Construction of these projects will take just under four years which is a major part of a student’s time in education and I felt it was important that my government recognised that.”

A new drop-off/pick-up zone is also being provided for Woolloowin State School as part of extra mitigation measures for the school.

Member for Stafford Stirling Hinchliffe welcomed the schools package and the Government’s commitment to maintaining the learning environment at local schools.

“This shows we are serious about alleviating any potential disruptions to the schools during construction,” he said.

Extra mitigation measures that will be used near the schools include dust suppression systems, noise barriers and traffic management plans.

Construction of the projects will start later this year after BrisConnections was announced today as the winning bidder.

Airport Link is a mainly underground toll road that will connect the North-South Bypass Tunnel, Inner City Bypass and local road network at Bowen Hills to the northern arterials of Gympie Road and Stafford Road at Kedron and Sandgate Road and the East-West Arterial in the city's north-east.

The Northern Busway is a separate dedicated road for buses that will connect the Inner Northern Busway at Herston to Bracken Ridge via Windsor, Lutwyche, Kedron, Chermside and Aspley. The Windsor to Kedron section of the busway will be built at the same time as Airport Link.

Together, these projects are expected to bring about a range of community benefits, including reduced traffic congestion in Brisbane's northern suburbs, improved travel-time reliability, increased travel options, better access, enhanced pedestrian and cycling facilities, and improved air quality and reduced road traffic noise along some arterial roads.

**Premiers 07 32244500**