

## Managing dust across Airport Link

Construction is underway on the Airport Link and Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) projects, bringing these vital pieces of infrastructure to South East Queensland by mid-2012. Construction activities will include the use of heavy machinery, blasting and tunnelling which can generate dust and other airborne matter.

The Queensland Coordinator-General is an independent entity that assesses major infrastructure projects across the State. For these projects construction teams across all project sites must monitor and control dust under strict guidelines set by the Coordinator-General.

### AIRPORT LINK

### NORTHERN BUSWAY (WINDSOR TO KEDRON)

#### WHAT PROJECT ACTIVITIES WILL PRODUCE DUST?

Dust can be caused by a number of activities that will take place on the Airport Link and Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) worksites.

- Constant movement and activity on a worksite can mean soil and dust from the ground is unsettled
- Worksite blasting involves breaking up the earth under the site which can send soil and dust into the air
- Diesel exhaust from trucks onsite and travelling to and from sites can leave particulate matter in the air
- Tunnel construction and excavation.

#### HOW IS DUST MONITORED?

Air quality monitors have been in place at work sites and surrounding areas along the project route since before construction began.

Airborne dust levels are measured in micrograms per cubic metre ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) per 24 hours for particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometres (one thousandth of a



millimetre) or less (PM10). At this size, dust is of particular concern as it is small enough to enter the human respiratory system and potentially cause adverse health effects.

Dust fallout levels are measured in grams per square metre per month ( $\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{mth}$ ).

Throughout the construction process, regular spot checks of dust levels will be carried out to ensure they are within the set goals.

## HOW MUCH DUST IS PERMITTED?

The Coordinator-General has set goals for dust in line with levels permitted by the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Airborne dust is not permitted to exceed 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup> per 24 hours for PM<sub>10</sub>. Under both Queensland and national EPA guidelines, this level should cause no adverse health effects.

In residential areas, dust fallout is not permitted to exceed 4g/m<sup>2</sup>/mth. At this level there would be no constant, visible dust however certain construction activities may produce short periods of visible particles.

In commercial areas, dust fallout is not permitted to exceed 5g/m<sup>2</sup>/mth which should not affect visibility.

## HOW WILL DUST BE CONTROLLED ON WORKSITES?

The amount of dust produced on a worksite can be reduced by:

- Spraying worksites and surrounding areas with water
- Covering dirt and other material stockpiles
- Covering spoil loads on trucks travelling through the area
- Planting grass on areas of loose soil where possible
- Erecting barriers (such as walls) to keep dust in a confined area
- Treating equipment (eg. drills) with water or dust shields prior to commencing work.

## WHAT CAN I DO IF I THINK THE DUST IS CAUSING A NUISANCE?

Regular monitoring is carried out on dust levels across all areas of the project. However, if you have reason to believe the construction dust is consistently causing a nuisance or health problems, please contact the construction team on 1800 721 783 (freecall, 24 hours).



## AIRPORT LINK

Airport Link is a mainly underground toll road planned between Brisbane's northern suburbs, the airport and the inner city. It will be a fully electronic toll road stretching 6.7km (including 5.25km of tunnel) that will relieve traffic congestion and promote free-flowing traffic in Brisbane's inner northern suburbs and cater for cross-city travel.

## NORTHERN BUSWAY (WINDSOR TO KEDRON)

The 3km section of the Northern Busway between Windsor and Kedron is being built with Airport Link to maximise benefits and minimise local impacts and costs. About 1.5km of this section of Busway is in tunnel. The dedicated buses only road way will result in faster, more frequent and more reliable bus trips with no traffic lights or congestion.

## CNI

CNI is a Queensland Government-owned company that is managing the delivery of both projects plus the Airport Roundabout Upgrade. Both the Airport Link toll road and the Busway are being built by BrisConnections and are expected to be completed in mid-2012.