



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Airport Link

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.02 am): Jobs are the No. 1 priority of this government, and that is why we are so committed to Australia's largest infrastructure project—Airport Link, the next stage of the Northern Busway and the airport roundabout upgrade—which will create 10,000 direct and indirect jobs. Despite conjecture about the company delivering the project, BrisConnections, and the numerous corporate manoeuvres, this important infrastructure project is all systems go. One needs to go no further than my own electorate to see that the work is well underway. Some 1,300 people are hard at work today and tomorrow, and the project is only just getting started. By mid next year, employment will hit its peak at 2,600 Queenslanders working on the site.

The road ahead looks like this: soon work will start on the airport roundabout upgrade. By the end of the year, the bridge connecting the Royal Brisbane Hospital and the Windsor to Kedron sections of the Northern Busway will be in place. Then we will bring in the big guns early next year with the first of the tunnel-boring machines—the TBMs—for Airport Link, much larger than the roadheaders digging right now. In 2011 two brand-new busway stations will be completed at Lutwyche and Kedron, with improved pedestrian and cycle access across Lutwyche Road—a great improvement and a great enhancement to that community.

Tunnelling will be complete and cars will drive on the airport roundabout flyover. Then in 2012 the new Airport Link tunnel and the Windsor to Kedron section of the Northern Busway will be open to traffic. All three projects—Airport Link, the airport roundabout upgrade and the next stage of the Northern Busway—will be delivered six months ahead of the state government's original plans. They will truly be congestion-busters, making a real difference on our roads.

This is \$4.8 billion worth of infrastructure that will cost Queensland taxpayers \$1.7 billion. But, most importantly, it will be putting dinner on the table for thousands of Queensland families, and that is why this government is making absolutely certain it gets built.