



Speech by

# Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 4 June 2009

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Airport Link

**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.10 am): Despite all of its major work sites being hit by last month's flash flooding, the Airport Link projects have passed another important milestone: two million hours of work have now been completed. To reach two million hours just six months after the start of construction is a massive achievement. I congratulate the 1,500 workers on site. Overall, the Airport Link project is expected to generate about 10,000 direct and indirect jobs. It is further evidence of the government's continued commitment to our \$17 billion building program which is protecting jobs during these tough economic times—evidence that we are making the tough decisions to respond to these tough times.

The two million hours of hard work completed is obvious to anyone driving along the project's route. The members for Brisbane Central, Clayfield and myself have all seen in our own communities the quite significant impact it is having on those areas. I once again thank those local communities for their patience in the face of Australia's largest infrastructure project. Roads have been repositioned and huge pits excavated. Approximately 14 piling rigs are drilling and 12 cranes are working across the major project sites. Two road headers are working around the clock excavating underground at Bowen Hills and Truro Street. The Truro Street road header is excavating between three and six metres a day and has already excavated 30 metres deep and 100 metres of the so-called mid-point access tunnel. The road headers will eventually excavate two main line tunnels for the road, busway and tunnel ramps.

On all other construction sites works are continuing to ramp up. Large holes or box cuts are currently being dug to house the massive tunnel boring machines that will arrive later this year. When the project is complete in 2012 the Airport Link will provide a high-speed underground road transport link through Brisbane's inner northern suburbs offering motorists significant travel saving times both now and well into the future.