

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1945**

**Asked on Thursday 26 November 2009**

**MS GRACE** asked the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Mr HINCHLIFFE) –

### **QUESTION:**

Will the Minister update the House on the progress of the Airport Link project now that the first anniversary of the start of construction has passed?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Honourable Member for Brisbane Central for her question.

On 6 November 2008, the first sod was turned on the \$4.8 billion Airport Link, Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) and Airport Roundabout Upgrade project. In its first year of construction this mammoth project has employed more than 2000 people across nine major worksites between Bowen Hills and the airport roundabout. Together, the project team has worked more than 4.5 million hours and 30 per cent of the project is now complete.

The project's roadheaders have tunnelled more than one kilometre so far, with 10 out of the 16 machines now in action. On completion, there will be a total of 15 kilometres of tunnel across the projects, mined by a combination of the roadheaders and two massive Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs). The first TBM is being assembled at Kalinga Park and will be launched in the first half of this year.

The combined Airport Link, Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) and Airport Roundabout Upgrade projects comprise the largest road infrastructure project currently underway in Australia. Employment is expected to peak later this year with approximately 2600 people directly employed. In total, the projects will create 10 000 direct and indirect job opportunities.

On completion, due in mid-2012, these vital congestion-busting projects will deliver significant travel time savings for motorists across Brisbane. Airport Link will enable drivers to bypass 18 sets of traffic lights between Brisbane's CBD and the airport. while the new Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) section, with world class station facilities, will further encourage the use of public transport in Brisbane.