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## **TUNNELLING MACHINE BREAKS THROUGH AT KANGAROO POINT**

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The first of two massive tunnel boring machines digging Brisbane's Clem Jones Tunnel (CLEM7) has reached another major milestone breaking through into an excavated section of tunnel at Kangaroo Point.

Commencing at Bowen Hills on the north side of the Brisbane River, the 4,000-tonne tunnelling machine (named Florence) has completed 2.8 kilometres of tunnel on its journey to Kangaroo Point.

"This milestone is truly spectacular when you consider that this time last year Florence was in the early stages of being assembled on site at Bowen Hills, said RiverCity Motorway CEO Flan Cleary.

"Commencing at the end of March this year, it has taken only 9 months for the construction team to tunnel from Bowen Hills to Kangaroo Point. That is a fantastic achievement," he said.

The journey from Bowen Hills to Kangaroo Point has taken Florence below the RNA Showgrounds, dozens of busy city streets, office blocks and apartments, the Brunswick Railway Station, Brunswick Street Mall, Kemp Place Fire Station and the Story Bridge.

Florence has also successfully tunnelled 60 metres below the Brisbane River.

The second tunnel boring machine (Matilda) has completed 2.5 kilometres of tunnel and is expected to break through at Kangaroo Point in early 2009.

In total, each tunnel boring machine will complete 4.3 kilometres of tunnel. Both machines remain on schedule to complete their journey to Woolloongabba by mid 2009.

Mr Cleary said the tunnel break through was a tremendous way to celebrate 12 months of exceptional construction progress on the CLEM7.

Key construction highlights include:

- more than 2.5 million tonnes of rock has been excavated (70 percent of total rock);
- 80 percent of the project's 38,000 tunnel lining segments have been manufactured;
- all 3 kilometres of roadheader tunnelling is substantially complete; and
- all 18 bridges at either end of the tunnel are substantially complete.

Mr Cleary said the excellent construction progress was good news for motorists who are continuing to struggle with the Brisbane's growing traffic problems.

"CLEM7 will provide an additional river crossing. It will bypass the CBD and up to 18 sets of traffic lights, reduce travel times by up to 30%, cut fuel costs, lower stress and improve safety," he said.

**Table 1: Summary of Construction Progress**

<b>Construction Activity</b>	<b>Progress to Date</b>	<b>Total at Completion</b>
Tunnel Boring Machine #1	2.5 kilometres	4.3 kilometres
Tunnel Boring Machine #2	2.8 kilometres	4.3 kilometres
Roadheader Excavation	352,000m <sup>3</sup> (98%)	360,000m <sup>3</sup>
Total rock excavated	2.5 million tonnes (71%)	3.5 million tonnes
Cross Passages and Substation Passages Excavated	34 (50%)	60
Tunnel Lining Segment Manufacture	30,000 (80%)	38,000
Bridges Substantially Complete	18	18
Surface Roads	80,000m <sup>2</sup> (52%)	155,000m <sup>2</sup>

For more information please contact:

Anthony Havers

T: +61 7 3837 4868

E: [investor@rivercitymotorway.com.au](mailto:investor@rivercitymotorway.com.au)

F: +61 7 3837 4999

