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SECOND TUNNELLING MACHINE BREAKS THROUGH AT KANGAROO POINT

The second tunnel boring machine 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 Matilda) has completed 2.8 kilometres of tunnel on its journey to Kangaroo Point.

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.

In another important milestone, smaller roadheader machines have now completed 3 kilometres of tunnel on the southside of the Brisbane River at Kangaroo Point and Woolloongabba.

"The project's construction risks are greatly reduced when you consider we have successfully tunnelled 60 metres below the Brisbane River, both tunnel boring machines have broken through at Kangaroo Point and all roadheader tunnelling is complete," said RiverCity Motorway CEO, Flan Cleary.

"We look forward to excellent construction progress continuing in 2009 as focus moves to the mechanical and electrical fit-out of the tunnel," he said.

"The positive construction progress is 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," Mr Cleary said.

For more information please contact:

Anthony Havers

T: +61 7 3837 4868

E: investor@rivercitymotorway.com.au

F: +61 7 3837 4999

