

26 May 2009

CLEM7 TUNNELLING COMPLETE WITH FINAL BREAKTHROUGH

Tunnelling on the Clem Jones Tunnel (CLEM7) is complete after the second tunnel boring machine broke through at Woolloongabba today.

The breakthrough represents an important milestone for the CLEM7 with both 4,000-tonne boring machines having completed their historic 4.3 kilometre journey from Bowen Hills to Woolloongabba.

RiverCity Motorway Group CEO Flan Cleary said the successful completion of tunnelling on the CLEM7 removes a major project delivery risk and brings the toll road closer to opening.

“To tunnel 4.3 kilometres through hard rock under the CBD and Brisbane River with such precision and remain ahead of schedule is a great engineering feat,” Mr Cleary said.

“The men and women who worked on the tunnelling teams need to be congratulated for their skill and commitment in what are demanding working conditions.”

Behind the tunnel boring machines, the fit-out crews continue building the smoke duct and cross passages, with pavement and other work scheduled to commence shortly.

Mechanical and electrical teams are also working in the tunnel installing lighting, telecommunications and safety systems.

To the north and south of the tunnel portals, all of the road and bridge work is substantially complete, with only the final asphalt layers remaining to tie the existing roads to the new tunnel at the Lutwyche Road, Inner City Bypass, Pacific Motorway and Shafston Avenue.

The tunnel’s two ventilation structures are complete and the internal fit-out will continue throughout 2009.

“Excellent construction progress is continuing across the project and our tolling system and business operations are well advanced. We remain confident that we will open to traffic well ahead of our contract completion date of October 2010,” Mr Cleary said.

Table 1: Summary of Construction Progress

Activity	Progress to Date	Total at Completion
Tunnel Boring Machine #1	4.3km	4.3 km
Tunnel Boring Machine #2	4.3 km	4.3 km
Roadheader Excavation	360,000m ³	360,000m ³
Cross Passages and Substation Passages Excavated	54	60
Smoke Duct Ceiling	5,561m (55%)	10,068m
Tunnel Lining Segment Manufacture	38,000	38,000
Bridges Complete	18	18
Surface Roads	117,850 m ² (76%)	155,000m ²

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