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## MAJOR CONSTRUCTION RISK CLEARED AS TUNNELLING MACHINES COMPLETE RIVER CROSSING

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RiverCity Motorway Group has cleared another major construction risk on Brisbane's Clem Jones Tunnel (CLEM7) after the project's two tunnel boring machines completed tunnelling 60 metres below the Brisbane River.

"By its nature tunnelling below a major body of water presents a higher level of construction risk, so it is very good to have this key milestone behind us," said RiverCity Motorway Chief Executive Officer, Flan Cleary.

Commencing at Bowen Hills on the north side of the Brisbane River, the 4,000-tonne tunnelling machines have now completed approximately 2 kilometres of their 4.3 kilometre journey.

In addition, smaller roadheader machines have excavated 3 kilometres of tunnel at Kangaroo Point and Woolloongabba. With 90% of roadheader tunnelling complete final lining is well under way.

The two tunnel boring machines are now excavating below Kangaroo Point on the south side of the Brisbane River.

One of the machines will breakthrough into an already excavated section of tunnel at Kangaroo Point in late 2008. The second tunnel boring machine will break through in early 2009.

Both machines remain on schedule to complete their journey at Woolloongabba by mid 2009.

Mr Cleary said construction risks had also reduced significantly above ground with 16 of 18 bridges now substantially complete.

"In line with our stated timetable, the project remains on target to substantially complete all bridges by the end of 2008," he said.

"Exceptional construction momentum throughout 2008 resulted in construction expenditure reaching \$1 billion in September 2008," Mr Cleary said.

Construction Activity	Progress to Date	Total at Completion
TBM#1	1.9 kilometres	4.3 kilometres
TBM#2	2.0 kilometres	4.3 kilometres
Roadheader Excavation	320,000m <sup>3</sup> (90%)	360,000m <sup>3</sup>
Cross Passages Excavated	22	60
Tunnel Lining Segment Manufacture	25,000 (66%)	38,000
Bridges Complete	16	18
Surface Roads	70,000m <sup>2</sup> (45%)	155,000m <sup>2</sup>

“The Directors and management remain confident that the company is well positioned to establish a sustainable toll road business:

- construction of the tunnel is more than 50% complete and continues ahead of schedule;
- the tolling system is 50% complete and business operations are well advanced;
- Brisbane’s population growth and employment growth is well ahead of the national average;
- traffic pressures are increasing every day; and
- community support for our road continues to grow.

“All of these factors demonstrate that the fundamentals for our business remain strong,” Mr Cleary said.

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