

## **BRISBANE TUFF NOT SO TOUGH, BUT MOTORISTS STILL GRINDING AWAY**

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The two massive tunnel boring machines digging the Clem Jones Tunnel (CLEM7) are finding that Brisbane Tuff is not so tough after eating their way through 500,000 tonnes of the City's hard rock.

Tunnelling from Bowen Hills to Woolloongabba, Matilda and Florence have each advanced approximately 1 kilometre and remain on track to complete their 4 kilometre journey by mid 2009.

While the machines are making excellent progress, RiverCity Motorway CEO Flan Cleary says it is Brisbane motorists who are doing it tough as they grind their way along heavily congested roads.

"Queensland Government figures show that during the morning peak motorists are travelling 40 kilometres slower than the posted speed limits on many of Brisbane's major roads," Mr Cleary said.

"We recently surveyed one young mother who is now packing extra food in the car for her toddler because she is regularly being stuck in traffic for long periods of time.

"The CLEM7 will provide enormous benefits for Brisbane motorists. 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.

RiverCity Motorway today revealed that the tunnel will be known as the CLEM7 which the company says honours legendary Brisbane Lord Mayor, Clem Jones, and heralds Queensland's newest motorway - the M7.

"Clem Jones was a driving force who turned Brisbane into the modern city it is today," Mr Cleary said.

"Brisbane is a rapidly expanding city of more than 1 million people. As Brisbane's largest ever infrastructure project, the CLEM7 will play a critical role in the City's continuing transformation.

RiverCity Motorway Group will own and operate the CLEM7 until 2051; it will then be handed back to Brisbane City Council.

**For more information please contact Anthony Havers on 0434 567 841.**