



Media Release

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TUNNELLING MACHINES COMPLETE HALF THEIR JOURNEY

The two massive tunnel boring machines digging Brisbane's Clem Jones Tunnel (CLEM7) have each completed more than 2 kilometres of tunnel, or 50 percent of their total journey.

Commencing at Bowen Hills on the north side of the Brisbane River, the 4,000-tonne tunnelling machines have also completed tunnelling 60 metres below the Brisbane River and are now excavating below Kangaroo Point.

RiverCity Motorway Chairman, Bob Morris, said the construction progress achieved on the CLEM7 during the past 12 months had been nothing short of outstanding.

"It is less than twelve months since Matilda and Florence started tunnelling from Bowen Hills to Woolloongabba. It is a fantastic achievement to already be past the Brisbane River," Mr Morris said.

"In addition, smaller roadheader machines have excavated 3 kilometres of tunnel at Kangaroo Point and Woolloongabba. With 95% of roadheader tunnelling complete final lining is well under way. "

Leighton Contractors and Baulderstone Bilfinger Berger Joint Venture Project Director, Adam Hudson, congratulated the project team on reaching this significant milestone.

"In less than a year we have reached the half way mark and I take this opportunity to thank the team for their continued hard work and dedication," Mr Hudson said.

"The team has comfortably managed the challenge of Brisbane's hard rock and the river crossing and are set to continue the good pace as they move through Kangaroo Point and Woolloongabba.

"I would also like take the opportunity to thank our neighbours for their patience during construction. Building a major piece of infrastructure under and around a major city is challenging and not without some effect on the surrounding community." Mr Hudson said.

One of the tunnel boring machines is expected break through 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.

Construction has also progressed rapidly above ground with all 18 bridges now substantially complete.

Mr Morris 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

Construction Activity	Progress to Date	Total at Completion
Tunnel Boring Machine #1	2.1 kilometres	4.3 kilometres
Tunnel Boring Machine #2	2.2 kilometres	4.3 kilometres
Roadheader Excavation	340,000m ³ (95%)	360,000m ³
Total rock excavated	2 million tonnes	3.5 million tonnes
Cross Passages Excavated	23	60
Tunnel Lining Segment Manufacture	27,000 (70%)	38,000
Bridges Substantially Complete	18	18
Surface Roads	75,000m ² (50%)	155,000m ²

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