

16 April 2009

FLORENCE FLIES TO FINISH LINE IN RECORD TIME

At 4:00am today the first of two massive tunnel boring machines digging Brisbane's Clem Jones Tunnel (CLEM7) completed its 4.3 kilometre journey from Bowen Hills to Woolloongabba.

In just over 12 months the 4,000-tonne tunnelling machine, named Florence, excavated an incredible 1.3 million tonnes of rock and installed 19,000 concrete tunnel lining segments.

Leighton Contractors and Baulderstone Bilfinger Berger Joint Venture Interface Manager Bert Musch said the break through at Woolloongabba was a fantastic achievement by the team.

"Not only did Florence arrive safely to her final destination, but she did so with great precision and in just over 12 months," he said.

"This is a highly complex project requiring the expertise and cooperation of multiple teams from different companies and countries.

"My congratulations go out to the entire team for this remarkable achievement," he said.

Florence will now be pulled apart, removed from the tunnel and transported from the construction site.

The second tunnel boring machine (named Matilda) has completed 3.5 kilometres of tunnel and is expected to break through at Woolloongabba by mid 2009.

"There is still a lot of work remaining, but we are confident that we will achieve an early construction completion well ahead of the October 2010 contract completion date," Mr Musch said.

Tunnel boring machine facts at a glance:

- 12.4 metres in diameter
- 261 metres in length
- 4000 tonnes in weight
- AU\$50 million each
- 78 tungsten carbide cutter wheels
- Excavates an average of 20m per day
- Powered by electricity with driving power of 4,200kW
- Crew of 22 workers

For further information please contact Anthony Havers on 0434 567 841.