



Undertaking geotechnical activities during the project's early works.
Images courtesy of the Gold Coast Rapid Transit project.



Underground services relocations

Construction of Stage One of Queensland's first light rail system has now commenced.

In June 2011 GoldLinQ was awarded the contract to design, build and operate Stage One of the light rail system. In partnership with the State and Federal Government and Gold Coast City Council they will deliver a \$1 billion world-class public transport system for the Gold Coast that is scheduled to commence operations in 2014.

McConnell Dowell (MacDow) and Bombardier Transport (BT) Joint Venture are the design construct and delivery arm of the GoldLinQ consortium.

MacDow will design and deliver the track works, roadworks, bridges, station structures and buildings. BT will deliver the rail systems including design and installation, and bring into service the rail systems, rail power and light rail vehicles.

Under the roads and footpaths of any modern city are a large number of underground services, such as gas pipes, water and sewerage mains, telecommunications and electricity cables. The construction of the light rail involves renewing and upgrading a lot of these services and moving them away from the rail corridor. The contractors have to know the location of these underground services. They also have to know the type of soil or rock and whether there is water present.

What to expect

- Investigations will be undertaken using vacuum trucks (which suck soil away and expose pipes), ground penetrating radar and drilling bore holes to provide vital information.
- Sections of the light rail route go through some of the oldest parts of the Gold Coast and the services may not have been mapped accurately; may be in bad condition; or may need to be completely replaced.
- Often the services are located together and while it may seem inefficient to not dig them out all at once, sometimes a service has to be replaced and the current pipes isolated before the next part of the job can proceed. It is not always as simple as moving them all together.
- Many services are only able to be worked on by specialist contractors, such as Energex and Telstra, who may have their own work requirements and methods.
- McConnell Dowell is committed to working as efficiently as possible to minimise inconvenience during this part of the construction process.
- The construction program can be finalised once testing activities are completed. It's at this time GoldLinQ can provide more specific construction details.

Stage One is the 13-kilometre light rail corridor connecting Griffith University to Broadbeach, passing through the key activity centres of Southport and Surfers Paradise. You can keep up-to-date with the progress of the light rail works through the website at www.goldlinq.com.au or call the project hotline on 1800 967 377* and select the GoldLinQ option. Email us at information@goldlinq.com.au * Free call within Australia. Call charges may apply from mobile phones.

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