

Light Rail Mail

Tuesday 4 June 2013



A world-class light rail system is coming to the Gold Coast in 2014. Get excited and get on board!



This regular newsletter is our way of keeping you informed about what's happening on the Gold Coast light rail project.

Delivering a sustainable future for the Gold Coast

Australia's sixth largest city is in an exciting city-changing phase. The move towards a fully integrated public transport system will deliver a sustainable outcome for the Gold Coast through reducing congestion and local greenhouse gas emissions from private vehicle usage. It will also provide benefits for tourism and businesses by supporting urban regeneration and facilitating sustainable transit orientated development.

So how sustainable is the delivery of this transport network? GoldLinQ's design and construction partners McConnell Dowell and Bombardier Transportation are committed to a sustainable delivery with more than 260 sustainability initiatives already implemented on the project including:

- Working closely with [local business precincts](#) to facilitate the quickest construction methodologies to deliver works in the shortest period of time. This has minimised the length of disruption to the Gold Coast community and visitors within several precincts along the 13-kilometre corridor.
- Modifying the design of the project's [Smith Street Viaduct](#) which runs through an existing landfill. By doing so considerable savings in greenhouse gas emissions and materials were made by reducing the amount of landfill needing to be removed and disposed of. The design change also significantly reduced any ongoing up keep of the new bridge.

- Reusing material from a piling pad (used to load construction barges) on one side of the [Sundale Bridge](#) to construct a piling pad on other side to facilitate the construction of the new light rail vehicle bridge. By doing so 3,000 tonnes of material was reused and the material only needed to be moved a short distance resulting in a reduction of nine tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Delivering the innovative “[Love Our City](#)” campaign. Working with local businesses and media, the project is encouraging the community to eat, play, stay and Love Our City within construction areas.

In recognition of these sustainability initiatives McConnell Dowell is also looking to obtain an [Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia](#) (ISCA) Infrastructure Sustainability (IS) rating. The project is expected to be one of the first projects in Australia to achieve this and its success will be measured against targets that reflect the quadruple bottom line including cost, environmental, community and quality.



News in brief



More News in brief



In the community

Not the south pole, but poles in the south

While residents of Southport have seen overhead line equipment for the last few months, commuters along the Gold Coast Highway can now catch a glimpse of the new overhead line poles.

The poles will support the overhead wire from which the trams will draw their electricity. More than 30 kilometres of wire weighing 32,000 kilograms will be installed along the 13-kilometre light rail alignment.

While progress on the Gold Coast has been racing ahead, in Germany our trams continue to undergo testing. The latest test carried out has been climatic testing, during which the tram is exposed to simulated extreme weather conditions in a state-of-the-art climate chamber. This testing is carried out to ensure the tram can withstand continued exposure to outdoor environments and weather.

Queen Street sees light rail take shape

[Southport](#) is a suburb of firsts: one of the earliest Gold Coast settlements, the first area on the Gold Coast established as a tourist destination and now the first to have a completed stretch of the Gold Coast light rail system.

Construction along Southport’s Queen Street is now complete, with only landscaping left to be finalised early this month. Queen Street will be the first street on the Gold Coast to boast a completed light rail station. With the area home to a large residential population, a school and an industrial estate, the station is sure to be a hot spot during operations.

In the coming months the next phase for Queen Street is testing and commissioning where the overhead line equipment will be powered up and trams will start moving around the system.

Gold Coast Careers Expo

GoldLinQ hosted a booth at the 2013 Gold Coast Careers Expo and used the opportunity to engage with more than 10,200 future users of the light rail system and potential employees.

A hot topic of conversation was how people can work on the light rail system during operations. Information was provided around how [KDR Gold Coast Pty Ltd](#), GoldLinQ’s Operations and Maintenance partner, will recruit locally throughout 2013 and 2014. Interested future employees can access further information on jobs such as Tram Drivers, Customer Service Personnel and Controllers at www.goldlinq.com.au.

Ideas Worth Sharing – TEDx conference

As part of our Love Learning program GoldLinQ presented to a group of 800 students, teachers and community members at [St Hilda’s](#)

[High School TEDx conference](#), where the theme was '*ideas that change the way we are*'.

GoldLinQ discussed how innovative ideas, such as using the project as a real life teaching tool, has encouraged school students to pursue an engineering or science occupation. Discussion also focussed on the bigger picture and how the light rail project will change the use of public transport on the Gold Coast.



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