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GATEWAY GO-AHEAD FOR LEIGHTON ABIGROUP JOINT VENTURE

The Leighton Abigroup Joint Venture (LAJV) was today announced the preferred proponent for the Design, Construct and Maintain (DC&M) contract for the \$1.88 billion Gateway Upgrade Project.

Managing Director of Leighton Contractors, Peter McMorrow said, "We are delighted that Queensland Motorways Limited has selected the Leighton Abigroup Joint Venture to deliver this significant infrastructure project."

The Gateway Upgrade Project comprises the duplication of the Gateway Bridge including a new shared pedestrian and cycle path, upgrading of 20 kilometres of the Gateway Motorway, including a new Gateway Motorway Deviation north with improved access to Kingsford Smith Drive and Brisbane Airport, refurbishment of the existing Gateway Bridge and maintenance of the facility over a 10 year period.

Mr McMorrow says the Gateway Motorway has local, regional and national importance because it serves as South East Queensland's principal north-south link with connections to critical development areas such as the Trade Coast, Brisbane Airport and Port of Brisbane.

Abigroup Managing Director Mr Peter Brecht concurred, "Our proposal acknowledges this by offering innovative transport design and construction solutions, iconic landscape and urban design initiatives, a highly skilled project team as well as delivering value for money to the Queensland Government," he said.

The project provides an opportunity for the joint venture partners to showcase excellence in every aspect of major infrastructure project delivery.

"Both companies have a proven track record in the delivery of outstanding outcomes on a wide range of major infrastructure projects.

"This is best evidenced by the joint venture partner's performance on the \$1.5 billion Westlink M7 Motorway in Sydney – a project that was successfully completed in December 2005, eight months ahead of schedule," Mr Brecht said.

Supporting excellence in project delivery the LAJV has brought together a team of nationally and internationally acclaimed designers, construction specialists and related project support expertise. These companies include: Maunsell, SMEC, Cardno, AAS Jakobsen, VSL Australia, EDAW, Coffey Geosciences, Heggies Australia and Rowland.

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