

PRESS NOTE

WEBUILD OPENS WITH AUSTRALIAN PM ANTHONY ALBANESE FORRESTFIELD-AIRPORT LINK, RAIL LINE IN PERTH LINKING CENTRE WITH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SERVICE REDUCES TO 20 MINUTES FROM 45 TRAVEL TIME BETWEEN SUBURBS AND CENTRE, HELPING REDUCE 2,000 TONNES OF CO2 EMISSIONS A YEAR

ALBANESE:

“THIS IS A GREAT DAY AND I CONGRATULATE ALL THOSE WORKERS, PLANNERS AND ENGINEERS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN DELIVERING THIS GREAT PROJECT”

WESTERN AUSTRALIA PREMIER MARK MCGOWAN:

“BUILT AT A FRACTION OF THE COST OF A SINGLE RAIL LINE IN SYDNEY OR MELBOURNE”



- *8.5-kilometre line has three stations, including connection to the international airport in Perth*
- *Two TBMs excavated under challenging soil conditions 26 metres underground without interrupting existing rail, airport services*
- *Project involved approximately 1,200 companies*
- *Webuild confirms Australia as strategic market, reaching 13% of Group construction order backlog by June 2022*

PERTH, Australia, October 10, 2022 – Australia’s Prime Minister along with Western Australia’s Premier and Transport Minister celebrated the opening of a new urban rail line that will connect the suburbs with the city centre via the international airport. The Airport Line, formerly known as the Forrestfield-Airport Link and built by Webuild, is one of the biggest sustainable mobility projects in the region.

“This has been one of the biggest and most complex public transport infrastructure projects our State has ever undertaken, and I am incredibly proud to see the new line begin operations,” said Western Australian Transport Minister Rita Saffioti.

In Perth – Adelaide, the nearest city, being 2153 kilometres away – transport services are essential to live and prosper. This was the idea behind the Forreestfield-Airport Link, the new urban line that reduces distances in the city, allowing commuters to travel between the suburbs and the centre in a mere 20 minutes compared with a previous 45 minutes by car.

The rail line, developed with an investment of AU\$1.86-billion (€1.21 billion), is 8.5 kilometres long and it connects the eastern suburbs with the Central Business District via the international airport. By potentially taking 15,000 vehicles off the roads every day, it will help reduce up to 2,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions a year.

Commissioned by the Public Transport Authority and jointly funded by the West Australian and Australian governments, the project entailed the construction of two parallel tunnels, three stations at Redcliffe, Airport Central (Perth Airport) and High Wycombe, 12 cross passages, and other related infrastructure for Webuild who led the construction of the project with an 80% stake in the joint-venture together with its local partner NRW despite the difficulties caused by COVID for the entire supply chain of 1200 companies of which 91% local.

The excavation of the tunnels by two tunnel-boring machines (TBMs) was very challenging due to the varying geology and because it was done under operating railway lines and beneath the airport’s operating runways before reaching the deepest point of the line at 26 metres under the Swan River.

The sustainability features of the project mark an important step for the future of infrastructure. At High Wycombe Station, for example, Webuild foresaw the largest solar panel system to be installed for a state government department in Western Australia, sufficient to meet the average summertime daylight electricity demand of all three stations. The stations celebrate aboriginal art by being decorated in contemporary style with abstract figures with the aim of emphasising the city’s welcoming spirit showing just how works can blend into the surrounding environment.

Webuild is expanding in Australia, a market of strategic interest for its projects in sustainable mobility and renewable energy. It belongs to a consortium identified in March as preferred bidder for the construction of a section of Inland Rail, an ambitious project to facilitate freight transport between Brisbane and Melbourne. In Melbourne, its preparing to build the North East Link, the biggest investment in the city’s north-east to fix a missing link in the freeway network under a public-private partnership. In the Snowy Mountains, it is working on Snowy 2.0, the largest hydropower project in the country. In Sydney, it was responsible for the award-winning curved, cable-stayed bridge for the Sydney Metro Northwest, the first of its kind in the country.

Webuild, the new Group born in 2020 from Salini Impregilo, is a leading global player in the construction of large, complex projects for sustainable mobility (rail, metro, bridges, roads, ports), hydropower (dams, power plants), water (treatment and desalination plants, wastewater management, irrigation dams) and green buildings (civil and industrial buildings, airports, stadiums, hospitals). It supports clients in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations. The Group ranks first in the world for the construction of infrastructure in the water sector. Since 2018, it is also among the top 10 companies by revenue generated from environmental services. Webuild is the expression of 116 years of engineering experience applied in 50 countries with 80,000 direct and indirect employees from more than 100 nationalities. Iconic projects, completed or under construction, include the M4 metro line in Milan, a section of Line 16 of the Grand Paris Express, Cityringen in Copenhagen, the viaduct and bridge for Sydney Metro Northwest in Australia, Red Line North Underground in Doha, Line 3 of Riyadh Metro and high-speed railways in Italy. Others include the Genova San Giorgio Bridge in Italy, the Long Beach International Gateway Bridge in Long Beach, California, the expansion of the Panama Canal, the Snowy 2.0 hydroelectric scheme in Australia, the Rogun hydroelectric dam in Tajikistan, the Anacostia River and Northeast Boundary hydraulic tunnels in Washington, D.C., and the Al Bayt 2022 World Cup stadium in Qatar. At June 30, 2022, the Group had a total order backlog amounting to more than €47 billion, with 90% of the construction backlog

relating to projects linked to SDGs. Webuild, subject to direction and coordination by Salini Costruttori S.p.A., is headquartered in Italy and is listed on the Milan stock exchange (Borsa Italiana: WBD; Reuters: WBD.MI; Bloomberg: WBD:IM).

[More information at www.webuildgroup.com](http://www.webuildgroup.com)



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