

## PRESS RELEASE

### **WEBUILD: THE FIRST SECTION OF THE NORTH EAST LINK EXCAVATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN AUSTRALIA, THE LARGEST ROAD PROJECT IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA**

*Milan, 31 March 2025* – The first tunnelling phase for the two giant TBMs excavating the North East Link (NEL) has been successfully completed. The twin tunnels will improve Melbourne’s transport network, mitigating congestion and enhancing connectivity. The Webuild Group, as part of the SPARK joint venture, is engaged in the design and construction of approximately 6.5 km of twin three-lane tunnels and related works.

In Melbourne’s northeast, the massive Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM), Gillian and Zelda, have reached Lower Plenty Road after excavating 1.6 km, marking a major milestone for the North East Link project. Both TBMs will undergo maintenance and mechanical inspections in the coming weeks before resuming their journey towards Bulleen. With a cutterhead diameter of 15.6 meters—among the largest in the world—and a length of over 90 meters, these TBMs weigh over 4,000 tons each and embody the highest technological standards in the industry.

The NEL is the largest road project ever undertaken in the state of Victoria and once completed, will feature the longest road tunnels in the state. Upon completion, the 6.5km North East Link tunnels from Watsonia to Bulleen will fix the missing link in the Melbourne’s freeway network, take 15,000 trucks off local roads a day and reduce travel times by up to 35 minutes. Its construction will create thousands of jobs, driving economic growth and development across the entire supply chain.

The Webuild Group is delivering some of Australia’s most strategic infrastructure projects, supported by the strong presence of its subsidiary, Clough. Current projects include Snowy 2.0, Australia’s largest hydroelectric scheme; a section of the Suburban Rail Loop East to improve Melbourne’s transport network; and part of the Sydney Metro–Western Sydney Airport Project, connecting the new airport to the city. Additionally, Webuild is working on the Perdaman Industries Urea Plant, one of the world’s largest urea production facilities, and the Woodman Point Water Treatment Facility, an expansion of Australia’s largest wastewater treatment plant.

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*Webuild is a global leader in the design and construction of large, complex infrastructure projects in sustainable mobility, hydropower, water treatment, and green buildings. A recognized leader in the water sector, it works in approximately 50 countries with over 92,000 people of 125 different nationalities. The Group boasts nearly 120 years of applied engineering on more than 3,700 completed projects, with a track record of 13,648 kilometres of railways, 891 kilometres of metro lines, 82,577 kilometres of roads and highways, 1,022 kilometres of bridges and viaducts, 3,462 kilometres of tunnels, and 318 dams and hydropower plants. Among its most famous projects: the expansion of the Panama Canal, the Long Beach International Gateway bridge in California, the Third Bosphorus Bridge in Turkey, the Sydney Metro Northwest skytrain viaduct and bridge, the Kingdom Centre skyscraper in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and numerous metro lines in Copenhagen, Paris, Rome, Milan, Naples, Doha, Thessaloniki, and Riyadh. Among the main ongoing projects, the following stand out: the New Genoa Breakwater, the Brenner Base Tunnel, Line C of Rome’s metro network, the high-capacity railways between Genoa and Milan, the high-speed railway between Naples and Bari, the Palermo–Catania–Messina high-capacity railway, the Snowy 2.0 hydropower scheme in Australia, and the Trojena dam network in Saudi Arabia. As of December 31, 2024, the Webuild Group registered total revenues for €12 billion and a total backlog of €63 billion, with more than 90% of its construction backlog related to projects linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Webuild, subject to the direction and coordination of Salini Costruttori S.p.A., is headquartered in Italy, is listed on the Milan Stock Exchange, Borsa Italiana (WBD; WBD.MI; WBD:IM), and since 2021, it is included in the MIB ESG index of the Italian blue-chip companies with the best ESG practices.*

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





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