

QLD Branch Technical Lunch & Learn – 30 April 2021

After the first date had to be rescheduled due to a sudden COVID lockdown, nearly 50 members & associates of the QLD Branch attended a technical lunch & learn event at Victoria Park Function Centre on 30 April 2021.



The event was MC'd by IQA Director, former President and Fellow, Clayton Hill. Attendees were presented with an overview, update and an opportunity to ask questions on the Cross River Rail Project by **Jeremy Kruger, Project Director – Tunnel, Stations & Development**.



Cross River Rail is a new 10.2-kilometre rail line from Dutton Park to Bowen Hills, which includes 5.9 kilometres of twin tunnels under the Brisbane River, inner South, and the CBD, including four new underground stations, eight rebuilt above ground stations on Brisbane's Southside, and three new stations on the Gold Coast line. The project also includes new signalling technology, the European Train Control System, which will allow trains to operate closer together, enabling trains to run more efficiently and with greater safety – this control system will be progressively rolled-out across the entire SEQ passenger rail network. Each of Cross River Rail's high-capacity stations will generate unique opportunities for local urban renewal, economic development, the revitalisation of a number of inner-city precincts, creating new employment opportunities.

Cross River Rail has now entered its second year of construction, and work is underway at over 10 worksites across South East Queensland. 2021 is the 'Year of Tunnelling' for the project, with two Tunnel Boring Machines – *Else* and *Merle* now excavating 3.6 kilometres of twin tunnels from Woolloongabba to Normanby, and major works continuing at all of the new underground stations. Significant works have also commenced at the Exhibition station and on the Southern-line stations between Yeronga to Salisbury.

As well as the two TBM's, the underground cavern and tunnel works are also employing six large Road header machines – all cutting through rock formations that are well known to many in the local quarrying fraternity. The \$5B+ project is scheduled to see trains running around 2025.

At this event, the QLD Branch were delighted to be able to recognise and present Michael (Mike) Cooper with an IQA Fellowship Membership status. Congratulations Mike.



Mike Cooper, FIQ & Clayton Hill, FIQ

The QLD Branch also welcomed its newest Premium Supporter, CDE Group to the meeting.

