



30 September 2014

## Arras Tunnel opens to traffic a month early

Wellington's Arras Tunnel has opened to traffic, a month ahead of schedule.

Traffic began flowing through the tunnel below the National War Memorial Park construction site at 11.30pm on Sunday 28 September. The opening marked the achievement of a key milestone in a tight and challenging programme which will see the design and construction of the tunnel and park in time for Anzac Day 2015.

The project, which welcomed 10,000 visitors at a public walk-through on Saturday, has benefited from huge local support and has achieved success on several fronts, including the 2014 GEM Award for Connecting with the Community.

Amongst the successes for the project was the close liaison between the project team and Wellington Transport Operations Centre specialists over the past year as they designed and implemented the tunnel control systems which were fully tested and signed off a week ahead of the opening.

Arts, Culture and Heritage Minister Christopher Finlayson has praised the Alliance of the Transport Agency, Downer NZ, HEB Construction, Tonkin & Taylor and URS on the progress made and the manner in which they have worked. This has been echoed by unsolicited compliments from other stakeholders and also in independently surveyed community feedback.

The tunnel is named for New Zealand miners who extended tunnels beneath Arras, France, during the First World War to mine German positions and house Allied servicemen.

The Alliance now embraces the challenge of completing the park by 31 March 2015 to leave preparation time for Anzac Day commemorations.

### For further information:

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