

Cr Ryan Murphy

Chair of Public and Active Transport Committee



Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner

2 February 2021

Mr Paul French
Co-convenor
CBD BUG
GPO Box 2104
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr French

Thank you for your letter of 13 December 2020 about Council's plans to remove Brisbane's public bike hire scheme, CityCycle, and going to the market for new, sustainable e-mobility providers. The Lord Mayor referred your enquiry to me as Chair of the Public and Active Transport Committee to provide a response.

I appreciate the ongoing commitment to cycling in Brisbane by the CBD BUG and acknowledge its past support of the CityCycle scheme.

It is worth noting that CityCycle has played an important role in how our city moves since it was introduced in October 2010. However, while more than 550,000 residents and visitors have used the bikes, taking more than 4 million journeys on CityCycle, traditional docked bike hire schemes around the world are giving way to more attractive and sustainable offerings such as e-bikes and e-scooters. It was for this reason that Council reached agreement with JCDecaux, owners and operators of the CityCycle scheme, to remove the bike hire scheme from Brisbane, at no cost to Council, by late 2021.

Furthermore, Brisbane's recent experiences with the trial of e-scooters has shown that the uptake of e-mobility, evidenced by the more than 3.3 million trips already taken on Lime and Neuron e-scooters, strongly supports Council's commitment to evolve this transport offering.

This is why e-mobility is a key initiative of the Transport Plan for Brisbane – Strategic Directions (Transport Plan), which will help guide the evolution of our city's transport network over the next 25 years as Brisbane grows and evolves. The Transport Plan focuses on opportunities to encourage greater use of e-bikes, e-scooters as well as other emerging, sustainable e-mobility travel options and, as of 9 December 2020, Council has gone to market for new e-mobility providers, including e-bikes and e-scooters, to commence operations this July.

Importantly, the CityCycle scheme will continue to operate, albeit with a reduced number of bikes, until after the new e-mobility schemes commence operations.

Regarding market competition, it is acknowledged that this is a crucial element in driving improvement in supply and operations, for example, boosting compliance with parking conditions and implanting innovative safety initiatives, as well as provision of attractive offerings to encourage ridership.

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For this reason, Council is seeking proposals from providers of shared hire e-bikes and e-scooters to support the delivery of e-mobility services to Brisbane and, as part of Council's tender process, value for money and equitable access are amongst the criteria that will be considered in evaluating proposals.

I appreciate your suggestion to have at least three providers, however, it is still not known what offerings providers will submit under the tender process. For example, some providers may only seek to operate e-scooters or e-bikes and some operators may seek to operate both. However, I can confirm that Council will assess the offerings under the tender process to foster improved accessibility to the new e-mobility schemes.

I can assure you Council values engagement with the community and organisations such as the CBD BUG and your feedback about where the shared e-bikes of Council's proposed hire-scheme can be parked has been noted. We are continuing to expand the existing network of bike paths across Brisbane, separating people cycling from pedestrians and other road users where physically possible, though as you will appreciate, making significant changes to infrastructure is often constrained by the existing environment.

Many key links in the active transport network can be challenging to deliver due to site constraints and available budget, with some projects requiring a staged approach and feasibility investigations to determine affordable and deliverable results. While this network grows, there will be some locations where connections are not as ideal as we would like, however, I can assure you Council is working hard to enhance bicycle facilities on a citywide basis.

As you may be aware, Council has recently released its draft e-mobility strategy in enabling e-mobility as a replacement for short car trips, especially for the first-and-last mile to public transport. You can view Council's e-mobility strategy draft on Council's website at www.brisbane.qld.gov.au by searching 'e mobility'.

Over time, as e-mobility grows in popularity and replaces more short trips by private motor vehicles, safety and other benefits, such as affordability, reduced traffic congestion, connectivity to public transport and reaching first-and-last mile destinations quicker and easier, will help to improve the livability of our city.

If you would like more information regarding e-mobility in Brisbane, please contact Mr Yru Redhead from Transport for Brisbane on 3027 5308.

Thank you again for taking the time to provide your feedback.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Ryan Murphy
CHAIR
PUBLIC AND ACTIVE TRANSPORT COMMITTEE