



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

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Dear ABC

Road Collision Reporting Guidelines

Too often a traffic crash is referred to by the press as an “accident” as if it were some act of God, not the result of several usually avoidable factors that lead up to a collision. Sadly, the ABC is sometimes not exempt from reporting crashes in this manner.

We are writing to you to draw your attention to the “Road Collision Reporting Guidelines” that were released in the United Kingdom on 18 May 2021 and backed by their National Union of Journalists. You can find details of the exhaustive process by which the guidelines were developed and more explanation of the rationale here: <https://www.rc-rq.com/guidelines>. Australia is no different to the United Kingdom in these regards. We have not been able to find anything equivalent in your style guide (<https://about.abc.net.au/abc-editorial/the-abc-style-guide/>).

It is our understanding that Associated Press changed their style guide in 2016 in a similar manner.

Accordingly, we urge the ABC to adopt these guidelines, which can be found here: https://231ea4fd-cd4f-476d-b67e-838d6b31f0d2.filesusr.com/ugd/c05c10_3f73627e43894c8496f379a2b9e84fd3.pdf.

As background to this letter, the Brisbane CBD Bicycle User group (CBD BUG) is a grass roots volunteer organisation of more than 800 members, representing the interests of the very large number of people riding bicycles to, from and within the Brisbane city centre.

We actively seek decisions at all levels of government supporting people who want to cycle, and in particular relating to improved infrastructure, end-of-trip facilities, integration of cycling needs with other transport modes and a regulatory environment friendly towards people riding bikes. While the CBD BUG focuses on issues affecting people riding bikes for transport, we also strongly support initiatives enabling people to more often walk and use public transport. CBD BUG members meet monthly to exchange information and ideas, discuss issues of relevance and determine the direction of policies to benefit CBD cyclists.

Yours faithfully

Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG
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Cc: Bicycle Qld
Space4Cycling Brisbane