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## Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

### CBD BUG

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Victoria Park Project  
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### **Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) submission on the Victoria Park / Barrambin projects**

Dear or Madam

In response to Brisbane City Council's request for the community to have its say on the Victoria Park / Barrambin projects the Brisbane CBD BUG is pleased to provide the following submission.

#### Spring Hill Common

We note the range of activities/events proposed by Council for this space are:

- 1) health and welfare activities such as yoga, pilates or personal training
- 2) recreational activities for families/children
- 3) local markets
- 4) live music/concerts, and
- 5) cultural events.

With the exception of "local markets", these activities appear to fit within the scope of the community's feedback on the outcomes wanted for Victoria Park indicated in the *Victoria Park Vision – Community Engagement Report*.

However, this view is also based on a proviso that all such events/activities are provided at no charge for the community and do not entail a user-pays approach.

We note several elements in the park's community engagement report indicating community opposition to allowing commercial operations (like markets) in the park. This report includes statements in this regard such as "Victoria Park will be a natural retreat, an urban park for adventure, discovery and reconnection" and "Submissions did not support the draft vision related to ...commercial expansion".

Therefore, it seems quite clear from the community consultation report there should only be free, community events in this public space that contribute to the social/cultural enrichment and/or physical/mental health of community members.

Markets do not fit this requirement as they are just another aspect of expenditure-based consumerism, with the buskers/musicians typically present at markets being there to only enhance the shopping experience and not for pure entertainment value.

Furthermore, Brisbane has a serious deficiency of public open green spaces where people can relax away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. There is already plenty of markets and other consumerism facilities across Brisbane. Therefore, it is highly questionable there is any actual need for markets to be allowed in Victoria Park.

If BCC wants to enable more markets, instead of commercialising Brisbane's insufficient public open green spaces they should temporarily close off local streets. Apart from streets being a hard-stand site that is much better suited to setting up market stalls and the large volumes of foot traffic (that also can damage a park's grass surface), closing streets for markets is a much better use of a large part of the public domain this is normally off-limits to people walking.

Given the clear expressed desire by community for Victoria Park to be a place of peace and relaxation there also should be a limit on larger events such a movie nights or music concerts in this space. To this end we suggest a maximum of one per month. Given the park's grass surface this limit will also allow it to recuperate in between these events.

When any of the indicated activities/events occur in the Spring Hill Common CBD BUG members are very concerned about the potential for active travel commuters using the North Brisbane Bikeway (NBB) and other paths to be impeded by these events.

The NBB is already busy and constrained and (apparently) can't be widened. As the only path between the northern suburbs and the CBD it is critical transport structure that must be available for safe use on a 24/7 basis.

Accordingly, BCC must only allow events/activities in the Spring Hill Common that will not impact these paths. Furthermore, the risk management plan for all allowed events/activities in the Spring Hill Common must include a component to prevent crashes on these paths - via ensuring event equipment, vehicles etc and all attendees (staff, volunteers and patrons) do not stray onto or obstruct these paths.

### Urban Pump Track

The location for Council's proposed delivery of a new "urban pump track with skateable elements" at the Herston corner of the park adjoining Herston Road appears highly suitable. This view is based on the fact this pump track will:

1. complement the existing parkour facility at that location, and
2. this corner site is well away from where the majority of Victoria Park visitors will be and hence is unlikely to result in crashes/conflicts between pump track users and other park visitors.

In view of the dangers to all people on Brisbane streets and roads due to the speeds and volumes of motor vehicles, and the poor condition or even absence of footpaths, there are far too few public spaces where bicycles and wheeled toys e.g. scooters can be safely ridden, and this is particularly the case for young children.

This has led to many children and adults not even being able to ride a bike, while due to personal inactivity levels there are also alarming proportions of Queensland adults and children who are now overweight or obese.

All these factors mean there is a pressing need for more outdoor spaces in Brisbane where people of all ages and abilities can exercise and stay healthy, with an urban pump track providing such an opportunity. Hence, the CBD BUG strongly supports this proposal.

We thank Council for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Yours faithfully



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Brisbane CBD BUG  
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Cc: Space for Cycling Brisbane  
Bicycle Queensland  
Brisbane North BUG