



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group
CBD BUG

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The Director
City Projects Team
Brisbane City Council
GPO Box 1434
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Via email to: cityprojects@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam

Kangaroo Point Bikeway - Captain Cook Bridge to Thornton Street planning study

I refer to your email dated 12 September advising of Brisbane City Council (BCC) commencing consultation to gain an understanding of any opportunities or challenges path users face when travelling along the Kangaroo Point bikeway between Captain Cook Bridge and Thornton Street, Kangaroo Point.

Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) members strongly support upgrading this section of the Kangaroo Point Bikeway.

We agree entirely with BCC's assessment of this bikeway as being important to users. This is particularly the case for people wanting to commute by bicycle between the CBD and the eastern suburbs located along the Lytton / Wynnum Road corridor. The nearby, alternative routes to this corridor are:

1. Vulture Street – a one way street that presents dangerous on-road conditions due to motor vehicles, with narrow and poorly maintained footpaths and steep grades, and
2. Stanley Street – a safe route via the bi-directional Woolloongabba Bikeway, but slow due to the traffic light sequencing/phasing favouring motorists, and also very circuitous for people wanting to travel along the Lytton / Wynnum Road corridor.

The major issues confronting Kangaroo Point Bikeway users when travelling along the northern section between the Captain Cook Bridge and Thornton Street currently arise due to the following factors:

1. numerous zones where people walking are highly likely to cross the path being used by bicycle riders, where there is no or unclear/weathered pedestrian warnings and poor sightlines e.g. near toilets, stairs etc. (refer Figures 1 and 2 in Appendix 1)
2. waste bins located so people using them are likely to stand on the separated bike path (refer Figure 3)
3. picnic facilities and public seating also located in close proximity to the separated bikeway (refer Figure 4)

4. the narrow widths of the separated pedestrian path, (measured by the CBD BUG to be as narrow as 1150mm), and the volume of pedestrians results in walkers/runners commonly stepping or running onto the separated bikeway
5. the narrow widths of the separated, bi-directional bikeway, (measured by the CBD BUG to be 1950mm at its narrowest point - just south of the plastic ramp), mean there is little margin for error when two path users are riding along this path in opposite directions
6. the changing mix and placement of separated and shared paths of widths not meeting contemporary standards, which to the uninitiated may be visually confusing (refer Figure 5)
7. inadequate lighting, resulting in shadowing by trees, and other installations near the Riverlife premises (refer Figures 6 and 7),
8. numerous sign posts, railings and dark coloured/low height bollards with no reflectors (some of which are positioned in shadow zones) (refer Figures 8 to 11),
9. deep (washout?) holes at the edge of the bikeway (refer Figure 12), and
10. attendees at the event venue operated by the Riverlife company spilling out onto and obstructing the shared path (refer Figures 13 and 14).

We acknowledge the difficulties of improving on the current situation due to the very tight space constraints below the cliffs. It is recognised this section of bikeway will be challenging to significantly improve without either reallocating the limited parkland green space, or the more preferable but very expensive approach of installing a new riverwalk out over the river similar to the New Farm Riverwalk.

Nevertheless, we call for the upgrading of this 1.4 kilometre section of bikeway, as with the volumes of park visitors and path users it is already well past its use-by date.

This level of high usage is before completion of the Kangaroo Point Green Bridge, which will certainly lead to even greater volumes of pedestrians and bicycle (and personal mobility devices) riders wanting to travel along these paths.

We thank BCC for undertaking this study, and the Queensland Government for funding it via the Cycle Network Local Government Grants program.

Your sincerely

Yours sincerely



Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG
8 October 2023

Cc: EaST BUG
Bicycle Queensland
Space for Cycling Brisbane
Queensland Walks

Appendix 1: Images of the conditions along the Kangaroo Point Bikeway - Captain Cook Bridge to Thornton Street
(Sources: Google Streetview, CBD BUG and where indicated, on-line media)

Figure 1: No warnings for pedestrians at major crossing point with the separated bikeway

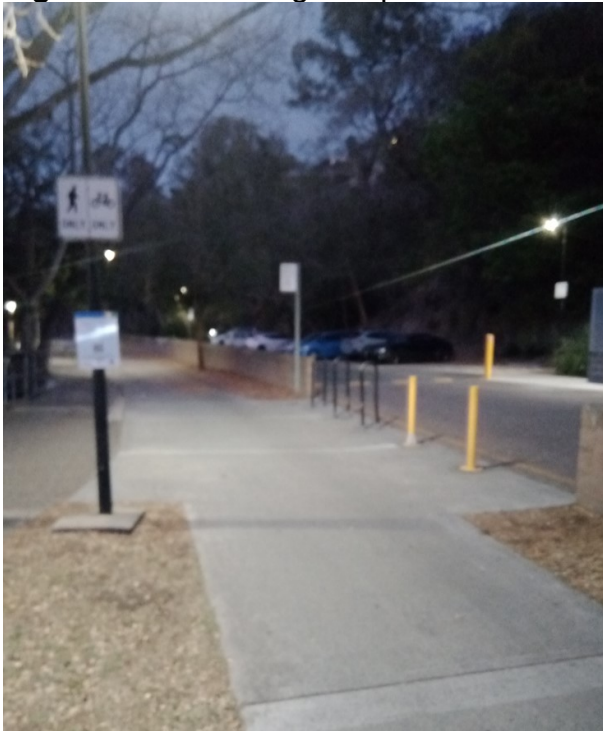


Figure 2: Weathered / indecipherable warning for pedestrians at crossing point with the separated bikeway



Figure 3: Waste bin positioned so users are likely to walk/stand on the separated bikeway

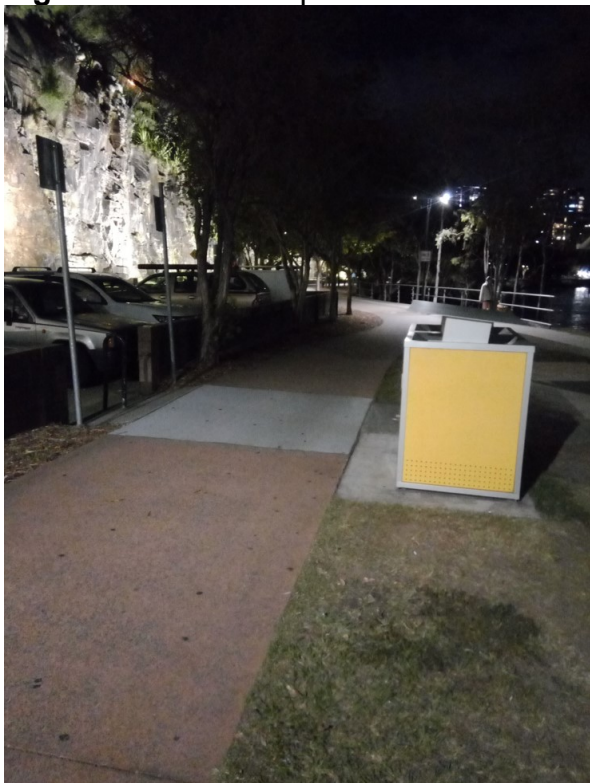


Figure 4: Public seating located barely off the path



Figure 5: Approaching the Thornton Street public toilets - path user crossover with many surface colours



Figure 6: Runners on the separated bikeway (passing a walker travelling in the opposite direction) in a zone of deep shadow



Figure 7: Shadowing of the shared path in front of Riverlife



Figure 8: Crash hazards –a line of low height, dark coloured “loop” bollards with no reflectors are difficult to see in this shadowed zone on the RHS of the path (heading north)

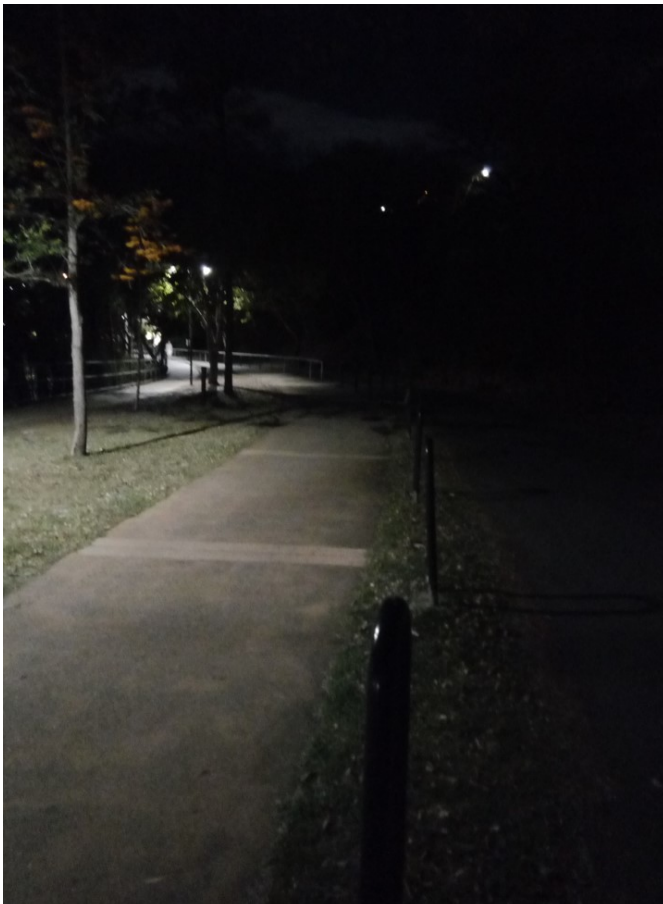


Figure 9: Crash hazards – this is one of several missing railing sections (apparently due to motor vehicle impacts), with rusty / sharp edges

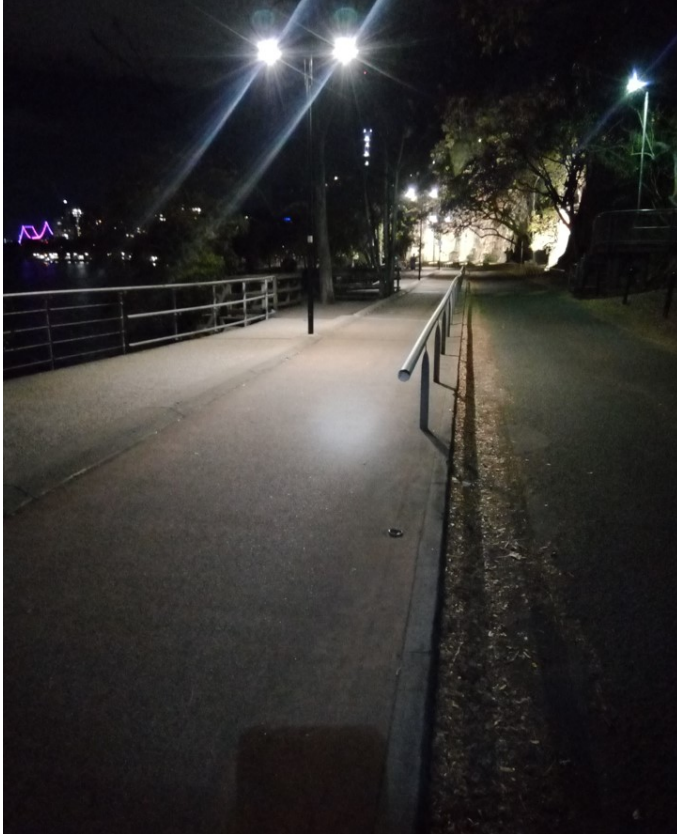


Figure 10: Rail corners with no reflective tape posing a crash hazard for bicycle riders



Figure 11: Signpost and low height bollards with no reflectors posing a crash hazard for bicycle riders

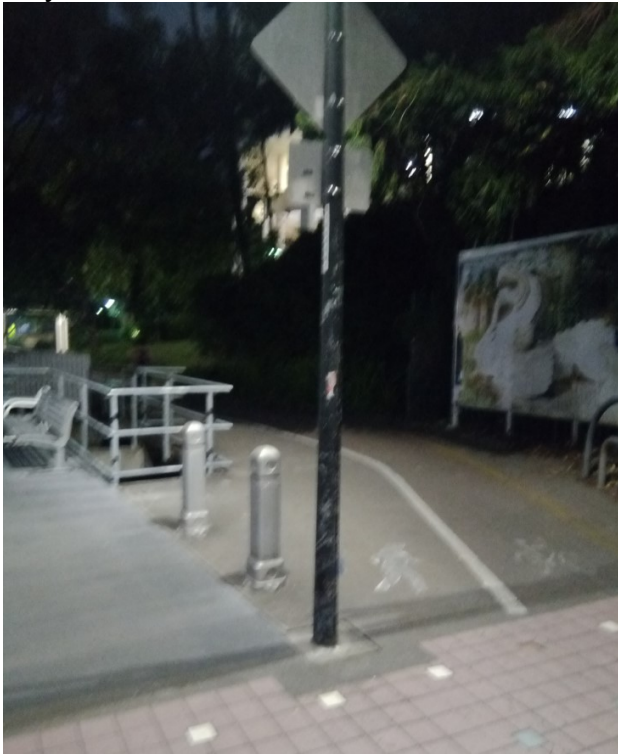
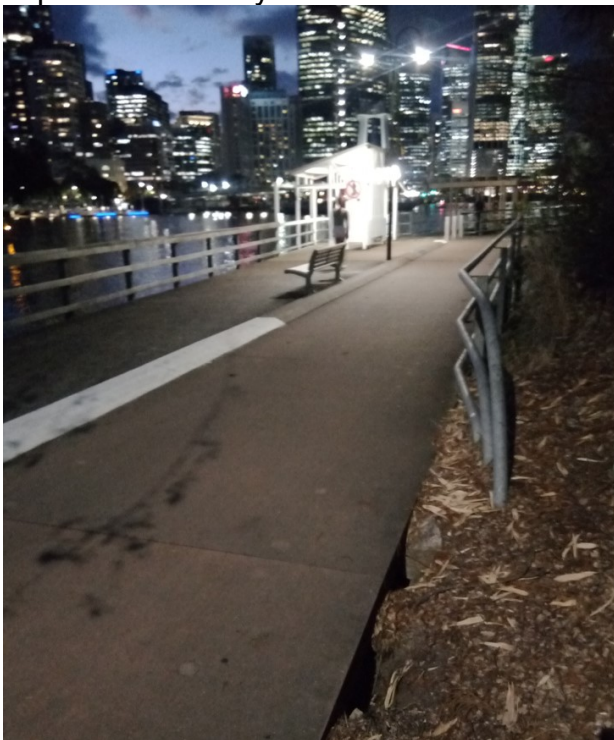
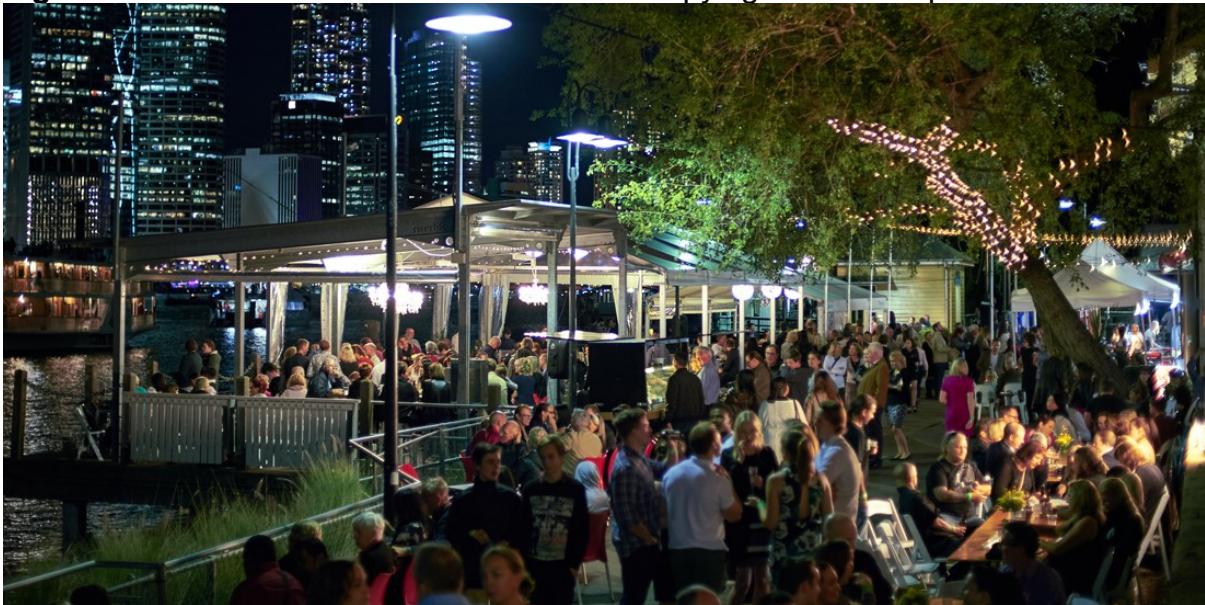


Figure 12: Bicycle rider crash hazards - deep washout(?) holes at the edge of the separated bikeway



Figures 13 and 14: Riverlife event crowds occupying the shared path



Source: <https://theweekendedition.com.au/stumble-guide/riverlife/>



Source: <https://www.mustdobrisbane.com/archives/winterfest-riverlife-kangaroo-point>