



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

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The Right Honourable Cr Adrian Schrinner
Lord Mayor of Brisbane
GPO Box 2287
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Via email to: lord.mayor@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Dear Lord Mayor

Coroner's report on the death of Carolyn Lister

I refer you to the attached Coroner's report on death of Carolyn Lister, who was killed while riding her bike to work on 30 June 2020 due to a crash with a large tip truck. It is grim reading. It is recommended you read this report as the Lord Mayor has a responsibility responsible for the safety of everyone who uses roads controlled by Brisbane City Council.

We note from the coroner's findings that "*during 2021-22, Council undertook a transport planning study on O'Connell Tce including its intersection with Bowen Bridge Road*". In relation to this study we ask:

- What has been done since?
- When are you going to engage with the broader cycling community for their input into the design of the deadly O'Connell Tce / Bowen Bridge Rd intersection?
- When are you programming improvements for construction?
- What plans are there to improve conditions at the Hudson Rd / Albion overpass intersection where a cyclist was killed by a truck in August 2018?
- What are your plans for improving conditions for people riding bicycles at all the other major road intersections where similar conditions exist?
- What system do you have in place to proactively evaluate the safety of intersections for cyclists especially where heavy vehicle interactions are likely, or are you just planning on forever "playing catch-up"?

On the issue of truck design safety we note the average age of the Australian truck fleet in 2018 was 14.8 years. According to the ABS January 2017 Motor Vehicle Census, almost forty-two percent (41.7%) of the nation's truck fleet was manufactured before 2003. 119,448 are pre-1996 and 73,441 trucks, 1996 to pre-2003. As you can see, trucks are retained well into their late 20s. The Truck Industry Council has also identified that a significant proportion of older model trucks (i.e. pre-1996) are working in urban areas. (<https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-03/360985-Truck-Industry-Council.pdf>)

You will note in the coroner's findings that "*Cross River Rail Delivery Authority recently requested commercial entities tendering for work with the authority, to show how they will ensure heavy vehicles are fitted with equipment that minimises risks to vulnerable road users. Further, entities were also requested to demonstrate how they will undertake training and continuous professional development for drivers covering the safety of vulnerable road users and on-road hazard awareness.*"

Given that improving conditions for cyclists at all BCC controlled intersections is unlikely for the foreseeable future, we call on Brisbane City Council to adopt safer standards on all projects under their control involving heavy vehicles.

The coroner notes that Boral ... "are now looking at installing these (bonnet mirrors) on the older fleet. The mirror on the bonnet would become a minimum standard on vehicles. If a contractor wished to exceed this standard by installing a camera instead of a mirror, then that will also be suitable. The retrofit of such a mirror is about \$200 per truck to fit."

The coroner also noted *"a quick internet search shows that such technology is available for all types of vehicles, is designed to be installed easily without the need for specialist installation and could cost as little as a few hundred dollars"*.

Given the insignificant cost of these safety features, it seems highly negligent for Council to not to insist on their use for their projects.

Council spends millions on construction projects every year, and has control over most development applications in the city. Accordingly, we call on Brisbane City Council to mandate the use of these safety features on all heavy vehicles involved in these projects.

Does council use these easy-to-install, low-cost safety devices on their vehicles that are not "cab-over" style? If not, why?

It is possible that had one of these mirrors or cameras been installed on the truck that killed Carolyn Lister, she might still be alive today.

We look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully

Paul French

Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG
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CC: Bicycle Queensland
Space for Cycling Brisbane
Queensland Walks