



**Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group
(CBD BUG)**

GPO Box 2104, Brisbane 4001

brisbanecbdbug@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/cbdbug/

The Honourable Brent Mickelberg MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
GPO Box 1549
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Via email to: transportandmainroads@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

I write on behalf of Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) members to call for your department to educate the community on the fact that revenue from vehicle registration fees only partly pays for road expenditure across Queensland.

The reason driving this request is the widely held misunderstanding across the community that vehicle registration fees pay for roads. This is clearly demonstrated in the hostile and uninformed comments on social media every time your department mentions people riding bicycles. Typical motorist antipathetic comments about bicycle riders on these occasions include views that cyclists “shouldn’t be on the road because they don’t pay registration”, and “a motorist shouldn’t have to give a bicycle rider one metre when overtaking because cyclists don’t pay vehicle registration”.

For reasons that are unclear to the CBD BUG the Department of Transport and Main Roads makes no discernable effort to dispel the myths about the funding of roads in Queensland, such as by publishing readily accessible and easily understood information on the department’s website that clearly shows the revenue from vehicle registration pays for only a minor amount of the total annual road expenditure in this State.

In this regard we would point to the most recent information available in the *Australian Infrastructure and Transport Statistics—Yearbook 2024* produced by the Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics (BITRE). The table provided in Attachment 1 to this letter displays data from this publication and shows that during the 16 years spanning 2007-08 to 2022-23 vehicle registration fees collected by the Queensland Government have in individual years only equated to between 13.6% and 32.1% of this State’s total annual road-related expenditure. Over these 16 years Queensland’s total revenue from vehicle registration fees was just 23.1% of the total road-related expenditure in this state.

While other road-related taxes and charges (i.e. driver's licence fees, stamp duty and tolls) are also collected by the Queensland Government from motorists, even the inclusion of these revenues does not significantly change the picture. Adding in this revenue derived over the same 16-year period shows that Queensland's total revenue from all road-related taxes and charges was just 38.4% of the total road-related expenditure in this state.

Importantly, the Queensland Government's total roads expenditure during this 16 year period funded from its own sources of \$74,819.1M was more than twice the revenue Queensland collected in vehicle registration fees of \$31,249.1M and 1.4 times the total road-related taxes and charges Queensland reported during that period. These figures highlight the fact that Queensland's road-related expenditure funded from its own sources depends on general revenue paid by all taxpayers, not just road-related taxes and charges paid by motorists.

Another salient fact that needs to be included in this information is the amount of Queensland's total annual road-related expenditure that is funded by local governments from their own sources (e.g. local government rates). The 16 years of data included in the table at Attachment 1 reveals that the total road-related expenditure of \$30,608.1M by Queensland local governments that was funded from their own sources was only marginally (2.1%) less than the \$31,249.1M collected through vehicle registration fees. Hence, it can be seen that via council rates and other charges Queensland residents and visitors, which includes people who ride bicycles, contribute almost as much to the reported road-related expenditure in Queensland as motorists pay via vehicle registration fees.

This point is particularly relevant when it is considered that a significant proportion of Queensland's roads are owned and maintained by local governments. For instance, according to former Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman, Brisbane City Council manages 95% of the 6,000 kilometres of roads within Brisbane's borders. (Source: <https://www.smh.com.au/business/a-partially-public-private-road-20100325-qznm.html>)

Apart from the Department of Transport and Main Roads publishing information on its website about the source of funding for Queensland's road-related expenditure, your department should also regularly draw the community's attention to this information via its social media channels.

I look forward to your response on this issue.

Yours sincerely

Paul French

Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG
21 January 2025

Cc: Bicycle Queensland
Space for Cycling Brisbane

Attachment 1:**Total road-related expenditure and revenue from vehicle registration fees, Queensland, 2007-08 to 2022-23 (constant 2022-23 prices, adjusted by CPI) (\$ million)**

Financial Year	Total road-related expenditure (a)	Vehicle registration fees (b)	Vehicle registration fees % of total road related expenditure (b/a)
2007–08	10,420.3	1,420.2	13.6%
2008–09	9,120.8	1,484.7	16.3%
2009–10	8,886.2	1,742.6	19.6%
2010–11	9,370.5	1,796.3	19.2%
2011–12	10,181.2	1,887.7	18.5%
2012–13	10,745.5	1,918.4	17.9%
2013–14	9,524.5	1,939.9	20.4%
2014–15	7,447.1	1,942.1	26.1%
2015–16	6,196.2	1,991.0	32.1%
2016–17	7,206.2	2,015.6	28.0%
2017–18	6,741.0	2,080.6	30.9%
2018–19	7,267.3	2,105.5	29.0%
2019–20	7,255.8	2,179.8	30.0%
2020–21	7,732.2	2,258.4	29.2%
2021–22	8,514.3	2,256.4	26.5%
2022-23	8,950.1	2,230.1	24.9%
Total	135,559.1	31,249.1	23.1%

Source: <https://www.bitre.gov.au/publications/2024/australian-infrastructure-and-transport-statistics-yearbook-2024/road-related-revenue-expenditure#dl-data>