



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

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The Honourable Jarod Bleijie MP
Deputy Premier and
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning
PO Box 15009
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Via email: deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Deputy Premier

I write on behalf of Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) members to request the cessation of events being staged within the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Priority Development Area (PDA) that obstruct/block the Bicentennial Bikeway.

The background to this issue is that during December 2024 the Bicentennial Bikeway was blocked from 25 November 2024 to 18 December 2024 for the staging of a food and drink market. More recently, on Sunday 23 February 2025 a rugby league promotional event was staged for several hours in the same location. On this second occasion Bicentennial Bikeway users were not even given the courtesy of prior notice of this event, an approach resulting in riders travelling along the bikeway who suddenly encountered this event being verbally abused by its attendees.

Brisbane residents and visitors are very poorly served for cycling infrastructure. Therefore, it is quite absurd and totally inconsiderate to stage events blocking the Bicentennial Bikeway.

We understand the operators of the casino and its related entities have a requirement placed on them by the Department of State Development to "activate" the river's edge within the precinct encompassed by the Queen's Wharf Brisbane (QWB) PDA Development Scheme. However, this is a misconceived obligation as the precinct where these events are being staged does not need "activation" by events, as the Bicentennial Bikeway (and the adjoining Queens Wharf Rd) have been highly activated for many years by the large numbers of people who cycle, scooter and walk along these commuter corridors every day.

Furthermore, according to QWB publicity material - when completed the QWB development "will deliver 50 new bars and restaurants" - so there is already plenty of food and drink choice for patrons and therefore no need to also commercialise the Bicentennial Bikeway by converting it into a food and drink market. (Source: <https://queenswharfbrisbane.com.au/media/sports-bar-to-out-play-all-others/>)

Additionally, QWB has been handed a significant proportion of the CBD's area, with the QWB claim this development would see the creation of the "equivalent of 12 football fields of public space". Therefore, there should be plenty of other public space QWB can commercialise without hindering people trying to travel along the Bicentennial Bikeway.

For example, since its recent reopening as a through-road for general traffic the more than 300 metres of William St between Elizabeth St and Margaret St still sees very little motor vehicle traffic or pedestrians. Therefore, staging a market and other events there would have far less impact on the wider community and given its closer proximity to the city could certainly benefit from additional foot traffic.

People who do not ride a bicycle are often fond of saying that "cyclists should stay off the road" - but where are people supposed to ride when Brisbane's busiest bikeway is closed with no regard to people trying to travel safely by bicycle?

We call for future casino markets and other events to be staged elsewhere so Bicentennial Bikeway users are not obstructed blocked again and look forward to your response on this issue.

Yours sincerely

Paul French

Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG
19 March 2025

Cc: Bicycle Queensland
Space for Cycling Brisbane