



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group – CBD BUG

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Mr Bill Loveday
President
Bicycle Queensland
PO Box 5957
WEST END QLD 4101

By email: president@bq.org.au

Dear Bill,

BQ – CBD BUG interactions and relationship

I refer to my previous letter of 23 October 2006 on this issue (copy attached), and a number of meetings since that date between representatives of BQ and the CBD BUG, seeking to reach agreement on means to achieve a co-operative and productive relationship between our two organisations. I note that to date no response has been received, and no agreement or understandings reached.

In view of difficulties, and inefficiencies, experienced in representing cycling issues and interests associated with both the NSBT works and the Boggo Road cycleway, the need to reach an understanding and protocols is essential. Your consideration of, and response to these matters as a priority would be appreciated.

As you would be aware, the CBD BUG is an active organisation of city cyclists, representing and articulating the interests of the increasingly large number of Brisbane residents who commute or ride bicycles to, from and within the Central Business District. The CBD BUG now has some 300 members, potentially represents several thousand regular cyclists and in excess of 100 members with dual BQ/CBD BUG membership .

The CBD BUG holds full membership meetings at least monthly to discuss issues of concern and interest to CBD cyclists, including parking facilities, 'end-of-journey' facilities and the cycling routes to and from the CBD from Brisbane's suburbs. The meetings are attended by at least 25 members, and on occasions in excess of 40 members.

Bicycle Queensland (BQ), as the peak organisation of cyclists in Queensland, is often the initial point of consultation on cycling issues, and unfortunately on a range of issues, including major infrastructure projects is the only group consulted (i.e. no local cyclists or BUGs have the opportunity to have input, or even detailed information). Traditionally, BQ appears to have operated

as the equivalent of a Brisbane-wide BUG within the Brisbane area, but as the peak body representing cyclists in other parts of the state. At present, there is no formal relationship between BQ and CBD BUG (or any other BUG as far as I am aware). CBD BUG has tended to receive only occasional information on the stance or submissions BQ has taken or put on a range of issues of interest to us, rather than being routinely provided with copies of correspondence and submissions.

The Boggo Road Cycleway, currently an issue on which there is a strong diversion of opinion between our two organisations, is a classic example of this. There continues to be strong views that there is a lack of membership input, transparency and accountability in the development and conduct of BQ consultation, reporting and lodgement of submissions on this and other issues.

CBD BUG has to date recognised and supported BQ as the peak body for cycling in Queensland, and encouraged its members to also take out membership of BQ. However, for local issues affecting local cyclists, we strongly believe that BQ must share information with, contribute to, and support local BUG involvement in consultation and representational processes. Specifically, for projects that impact upon cycle facilities within the CBD and that affect cycling routes to and from the CBD, we again request that BQ involve CBD BUG in any and all consultation. We also support the sharing of information in a timely manner between our two groups. CBD BUG has consistently provided copies of all submissions to local and State governments, but this has not been reciprocated by BQ. These practices, we believe, are necessary to maximise the likelihood of the best possible outcome for cyclists.

I hope the above suggestions can lead to a closer relationship between BQ and CBD BUG. I would request that the Committee of Management consider our correspondence at the earliest opportunity. I would also request that you provide copies of all correspondence and information relating to the Boggo Road Cycleway. This is particularly urgent in view of the fact that Queensland Transport have refused our request for to be represented on the relevant consultative committee on the grounds that BQ are the conduit for our views to be placed before the committee and for the committee's deliberations to be communicated to us.

Following your Committee's consideration and formal response to this correspondence, it may be desirable to organise a summit involving BQ, CBD BUG, EaSTBUG, SWBrisBUG and any other BUGs actively involved in the Brisbane area to discuss and progress these issues in greater detail.

If you wish to clarify any issues raised in this letter, you can contact me on 3815 9403 (W); 0419 663329 (mobile) or by email on cbdbug@yahoo.com.au.

Yours sincerely

Paul Murdoch
Co-Convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG

31 January 2007

CC: David Saltwell, President EaSTBUG
SWBrisBUG