



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

GPO Box 2104, Brisbane 4001

convenors@cbdbug.org.au

www.cbdbug.org.au

The Right Honourable Cr Graham Quirk
Lord Mayor of Brisbane
GPO Box 2287
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Lord Mayor Graham Quirk

This letter requests that Brisbane City Council undertakes meaningful consultation with the Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) and other local cyclist advocacy groups for the design of your five signature bikeway projects.

During Council's previous term the CBD BUG was consulted on some projects with respect to which it was subsequently revealed that the contract for construction had already been signed prior to the consultation occurring. The most notable instance of this approach was the "Little Dock Street Safety Improvement Project" – situated at the southern landing of the Goodwill Bridge. While this work was needed to cope with increased levels of people walking and riding bikes through this precinct, the outcome has not been as beneficial as it could have been. As a result the CBD BUG continues to receive complaints from members and other bike riders on a regular basis, with many regarding the final outcome as a more hazardous situation than the previous design.

We look to you to avoid similar results for your signature projects - by including the CBD BUG and other local cyclist advocacy groups in a consultation process at an early stage. Through this approach our collective experience as commuter and recreational cyclists can be drawn upon for the benefit of Council and your constituents.

There is a host of major infrastructure projects in Queensland over recent years, such as the Gateway Bridge duplication, the Clem7 tunnel, the Eastern Busway and the cycle bridge across the Centenary Motorway at Mt Coot-tha Gardens, for which community consultation was commenced at an early stage. This approach resulted in outcomes that would not have been possible without that consultative process, as a significant number of CBD BUG members can attest to from their participation in these processes.

Furthermore, we would draw your attention to Recommendation Eight from the Queensland coronial inquiry into the death of Rebekka Meyer. This recommendation by Coroner explicitly called for Brisbane City Council "to engage with bicycle representative groups to investigate, plan and develop more dedicated exclusive bikeways in Brisbane" (see Figure 1).

Council's commitment of \$100 million over the next four years is greatly appreciated as a clear indicator of your intent to maintain, upgrade, extend and build missing links across Brisbane's bikeway network. We are very keen to see that this large amount of ratepayers' money is not miss-spent or wasted on low value projects that do not deliver the expected outcome of increasing cycling's modal share of trips.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Campbell', written in a cursive style.

Donald Campbell
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG
28 August 2016

Cc: Space4Cycling Brisbane

Cc: Councillor Adrian Schrinner
Councillor Andrew Wines
Councillor Ian McKenzie
Councillor Kate Richards
Councillor Jared Cassidy
Councillor Peter Cummings

Figure 1: Extract from findings of Queensland Coroner's Court inquest into the death of Rebekka Tine Lousdal Meyer (December 2015)

Improving and expanding safer bikeways

156. There was discussion in evidence and submissions about the meaning and impact of green paint on the road and what it means. Evidence from council was that green paint markings denote potential conflict points between bicycles and motor vehicles and the paint is to alert both to the risk. Witnesses representing cyclists' interests understood the green paint on the shared road surface identified a bike lane where cyclists could ride. It is trite to remark that paint on the surface of a shared road does not provide any physical safety to cyclists. Only physical separation of cyclists in dedicated exclusive bikeways achieves improved safety. Both Bicycle Queensland and Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group highlighted the imperative to invest in further expansion of dedicated physically segregated bicycle infrastructure rather than narrow and non-continuous green painted 'bike lanes'.

157. It was flagged at the inquest that a plan for a proposed dedicated bikeway from the Gabba Stadium to the Goodwill Bridge, with an associated upgrade of the Stanley Street/Annerley Road intersection was soon to be publically released.

Recommendation eight

It is recommended that Brisbane City Council engage with bicycle representative groups to investigate, plan and develop more dedicated exclusive bikeways in Brisbane. Resources and planning should be prioritised to extend Council's excellent existing dedicated bicycle only bikeways that provide physically exclusive bicycle paths.

Source: http://www.courts.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/449447/cif-meyer-rtl-20151209.pdf