



OFFICE OF THE
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Mr Paul French
Brisbane Central Bicycle User Group
GPO Box 2104
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr French

Thank you for your letter of 28 October 2011 about cyclist safety, rat running and speeding along King Arthur Terrace, Tennyson.

I can appreciate your concerns about cyclist safety, particularly considering your role as Co-convenor of the Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group. I understand that you have suggested a permanent road closure on King Arthur Terrace or improvements to traffic calming devices along this road.

I am told Mr Karl Brough from Council's Transport Planning and Strategy branch spoke to you on 10 November about this matter. As discussed with Mr Brough, road closures are not favoured by Council as they can restrict emergency service vehicle access and restrict travel for local residents. In view of this, the permanent closure of King Arthur Terrace to through traffic is not proposed at this time.

I note your comments about the temporary closure of King Arthur Terrace for the Brisbane International Tennis Tournament. While I appreciate that the road is closed to through traffic for the tournament, Mr Brough tells me that the temporary barriers can easily be removed to allow emergency vehicle access. As such, the temporary road closure does not restrict emergency service vehicle access.

While I understand that there are prominent 'Local Traffic Only' signs at nearby Softstone Street and Fairfield Road, these signs are advisory only and are not enforceable by the Queensland Police Service (QPS). As such, further signs are not proposed.

With regard to your request to enhance traffic calming, Mr Brough tells me that a traffic survey undertaken in September 2010 showed an average two-way traffic volume of 5800 vehicles per day along King Arthur Terrace. I am told that this figure is relatively high for a local access street and shows a significant amount of through traffic. The results of the traffic survey showed an average speed of 33 km/h, with 85% of motorists driving below 39 km/h. These figures indicate that motorists are observing the 40 km/h speed limit. In addition, a search of official crash records has not identified any significant safety issues along King Arthur Terrace.

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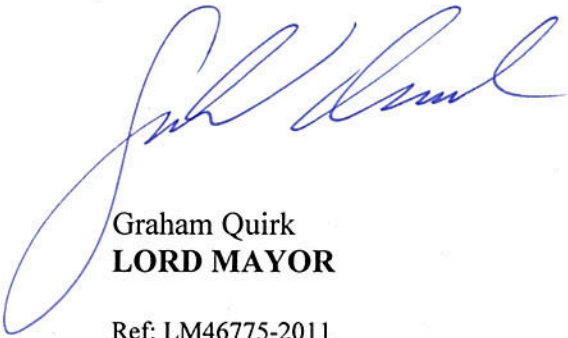
As you know, Council is in the process of reviewing two development applications that include upgrading King Arthur Terrace between Softstone Street and the roundabout near Fairfield Road as part of the Yeerongpilly Transport Orientated Development (TOD) scheme. I am pleased to tell you that preliminary plans lodged with Council indicate that on-road cycle lanes are proposed in the area of the road upgrade. While some development works on the TOD scheme have already started, the Queensland Government has not yet announced a start date for the proposed road works. I understand you were hoping for off-road facilities, however, I trust this option will also be of assistance.

Your comments that the existing traffic calming devices could endanger cyclists by forcing them to ride close to motorists have been noted. While I appreciate your concerns, I am told that without the narrowing of the road, the existing devices would be ineffective in slowing down motorists. Mr Brough tells me the traffic calming devices are clearly visible well in advance and that drivers and cyclists have sufficient time to react and slow down to avoid conflict. If you would like any further information, please call Mr Brough on 3403 8888.

I share your concerns about speeding, poor driver behaviour and aggression towards cyclists by drivers on King Arthur Terrace. As these issues fall under the jurisdiction of the QPS, I have written to Commissioner Robert Atkinson on your behalf and asked that his office responds directly to you. If you observe speeding in King Arthur Terrace in the future, I would encourage you to call the QPS Hoon Hotline on 134 666.

Thank you again for contacting me. May I take this opportunity to wish you a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely



Graham Quirk
LORD MAYOR
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