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## Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

### CBD BUG

GPO Box 2104, Brisbane 4001

[convenors@cbdbug.org.au](mailto:convenors@cbdbug.org.au)

0423 974 825

[www.cbdbug.org.au](http://www.cbdbug.org.au)

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The Right Honourable Graham Quirk  
Lord Mayor of Brisbane  
GPO Box 2287  
Brisbane Qld 4001

Dear Lord Mayor

This letter formally conveys the views of the Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) on the essential characteristics of the proposed replacement for the Riverwalk that was lost in the January 2011 Brisbane flood.

The Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) commends the Brisbane City Council's consultative approach for replacing the iconic floating Riverwalk that formerly provided an essential connection between the CBD to New Farm for cyclists and pedestrians.

With respect to the five options for the replacement Riverwalk the CBD BUG currently does not have a preferred option. Instead, the CBD BUG prefers to focus on design quality of the replacement structure. There is no doubt there were design faults in the former walkway, which the CBD BUG believes its replacement can improve upon.

The following factors have been identified in this regard.

1. Segregation – As a shared facility the former Riverwalk was less than ideal due to the potential for conflict between pedestrians and cyclists, particularly during peak travel periods. The CBD BUG welcomes the intention that the new facility will be segregated in a similar manner to the recently upgraded sections of the Bicentennial Bikeway.
2. Designed for commuters – While the original Riverwalk was used for exercise and recreation, its greatest community benefit was derived from its use by commuters. Therefore, the new path primarily needs to meet the needs of people travelling to and from their regular work and study destinations. Segregating cyclists and pedestrians goes a long way towards achieving that outcome.
3. Clear lines of sight – For user safety clear lines of vision are essential to reduce the chance of conflict. On that basis the CBD BUG suggests straight paths, rather than curving paths, should be preferred.
4. Ability to be used during king tides – Some of Brisbane's busiest cycleways are regularly closed due to being submerged by king tides. Regardless of the replacement Riverwalk being a fixed or floating structure, it must be built so it remains open during king tide events, as well as tidal surge and floods similar to or worse than those experienced in 2011.

With the former Riverwalk carrying around 3,000 people per day its loss has had a significant detrimental effect on the number of people cycling and walking between the CBD and the inner northern suburbs. The CBD BUG expects the number of users will quickly return to at least this level after the path is reinstated, and accordingly, looks forward with great anticipation to early reconstruction of this much-missed facility.

In closing, the alleviation of Brisbane's chronic traffic congestion relies on increased use of active and public transport modes and the new Riverwalk will be a vital contributor to the required change in travel behaviour.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul French', with a stylized, cursive script.

Paul French  
Co-convenor  
Brisbane CBD BUG  
23 August 2011