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## Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

**CBD BUG**

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The Right Honourable Campbell Newman  
Lord Mayor of Brisbane  
GPO Box 287  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Lord Mayor

### **Reinstatement of Brisbane Riverwalk**

Let me begin this letter by commending the Brisbane City Council for the speed with which the majority of Brisbane's bikeways have been returned to service after the 2011 Brisbane Flood waters receded.

CBD BUG members have been very pleased with this outcome, and following the bipartisan support expressed shortly after the flood for replacing the Riverwalk, felt it was only a matter of time before all of Council's cycling infrastructure was returned to full functionality. However, recent media reports that the Riverwalk may now not be reinstated have caused alarm among CBD BUG members and necessitated this letter calling for the reinstatement of this critical piece of transport infrastructure.

The Riverwalk was the key off-road cycling connection between Brisbane's CBD and the major cycling suburbs of New Farm, Teneriffe and Newstead. Its loss is affecting many cycling commuters on a daily basis, particularly in combination with the temporary loss of ferry services. When roads are closed motorists have others to use as alternatives. However, in contrast many cyclists who rely on off-road facilities because of safety concerns due to the high volume and speed of motor vehicles have no alternative. The results observed during major infrastructure projects that have closed off-road cycling routes are that many people simply stop cycling and revert to less sustainable forms of transport.

As ratepayers CBD BUG members appreciate concerns about the cost of rebuilding the structure. However, the cost needs to be put in perspective as it will pale beside Council's massive expenditure on road infrastructure. For Brisbane's long term sustainability, cycling infrastructure is at least as important as motor vehicle infrastructure and therefore the Riverwalk needs to be rebuilt.

Prior to its destruction Riverwalk was also a principal enabler of Council's CityCycle public bike hire scheme. As you know this election commitment of yours is still in the process of being progressively rolled out and the Riverwalk's loss can only be expected to have negatively impact on the scheme's viability.

As far as CBD BUG members are aware the Riverwalk was the single largest asset lost by Brisbane ratepayers due to the flood. Its replacement will not only be an essential factor supporting cycle commuting in this city, but will also serve as an important symbol of Brisbane's rebuilding in the wake of the flood. Accordingly, members of the CBD BUG strongly urge you to publicly renew your commitment to the Riverwalk's rebuilding, and as a high priority.

I look forward to your urgent support for this critical issue.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul French', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Paul French  
Co-convenor  
Brisbane CDB BUG  
11 February 2011

CC: Cr David Hinchliffe, Central Ward