



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

GPO Box 2104, Brisbane 4001

0423 974 825

convenors@cbdbug.org.au

www.cbdbug.org.au

Mr Tony Abbott MP
Leader of the Opposition
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Via email to: tony.abbott.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Abbott

This letter is one of a series of identical letters sent by the Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) to the leaders of the three major Australian political parties contesting the 2010 Federal Election, seeking commitments from them to take action on increasing the number of people who regularly ride bikes. The responses to these letters will be distributed as widely as possible, via direct email to all CBD BUG members, being posted on the organisation's website, and where possible, inserted in other media.

As background to this letter, the CBD BUG is a non-partisan grass roots volunteer organisation of more than 500 members representing the interests of the very large number of Brisbane residents who ride bicycles to, from and within Brisbane's city centre. The CBD BUG is highly active in pursuing policy decisions at all levels of government relating to cycling, and in particular relating to improving cycling infrastructure, end-of-trip facilities, making the regulatory environment more cyclist-friendly and integrating cycling with other transport modes.

A major issue to be addressed from the perspective of cyclists is that even though cycling is a viable and sustainable transport mode alternative to the car, for years it has been all but ignored by successive Federal Governments of all persuasions. This has occurred despite cycling's significant capacity to alleviate urban traffic congestion, halt the increasing levels of obesity across the community, limit Australia's economic exposure to oil price fluctuations, and reduce the country's carbon emissions.

The bias of Federal Governments is clear from the billions of dollars that continue to be directed towards improving infrastructure for motorists and subsidising the automobile industry, while cycling has received negligible funding. To address this investment imbalance the CBD BUG is calling on the major parties to announce a new funding commitment over the next term to cycling infrastructure.

A second major issue of concern for cyclists is the unsafe roads condition they experience because of the cycling-hostile provisions of the Australian Road Rules (ARR). The ARR provided the basis for nationally consistent road rules across all jurisdictions, drafted under the oversight of the National Transport Commission.

While the CBD BUG supports the principle of having road rules consistent across all jurisdictions for safety purposes, because of the pro-car bias of the rule drafters, from a cyclist's perspective this approach has simply led to consistently bad rules. These rules now stand in stark contrast to those adopted in overseas jurisdictions where much higher cycling levels have been achieved.

To correct these cycling-hostile road rules the CBD BUG is calling for a commitment from the major parties that a comprehensive review of the ARR will be completed within the next term of government with the objective creating a safer environment for cyclists.

I look forward to your response on these issues.

Yours faithfully

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

Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG

13 August 2010