
Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group – CBD BUG

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The Right Honourable Campbell Newman
Lord Mayor of Brisbane
GPO Box 2287
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Lord Mayor

Re: Conversion of footpath to slip lane at Main Street Woolloongabba

This letter requests your immediate action to cease the works at the intersection of Main Street and Stanley Street Woolloongabba, occurring to convert a section of the footpath into a slip lane.

There are a number of compelling reasons why the conversion of this footpath into a slip lane should be stopped. These works completely contrast with the approach adopted in the CBD, where road lanes have been converted to footpaths, a move greatly enhancing the central city area's character, as well as generating increased business opportunities through the additional seating space for cafes, restaurants etc.

Currently, large crowds attending sporting events at "The Gabba" mean this location is already subject to periods of very heavy pedestrian traffic. Additionally, the future demand for footpath space arising from the fact that Woolloongabba is likely to be declared an Urban Development Area by the State Government in late 2008 indicates this suburb's potential for increased population density and the corresponding daily need for additional footpath space.

The current negative affects on the businesses at this location arising from the construction works are clearly apparent, with the temporary construction fencing almost completely hiding businesses at this location from view. The longer term impacts of moving vehicular traffic closer to the footpath diners will also have an obviously negative effect on the business at this site.

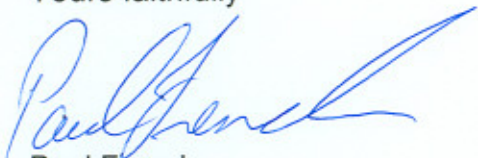
Removing this footpath at this time reinforces the CBD BUG's perception of the "car-centricity" of the BCC and the lack of coordination between the various levels of government and is the direct opposite of the "livable city" lifestyle espoused by local government representatives. The irony of the BCC's current "Footpaths Competition" is not lost on the CBD BUG.

In the current environment there is simply no defending these works and accordingly, the CBD BUG calls on you to immediately have these works halted and review the appropriateness of the decision that led to this approach.

Finally, it is suggested the BCC's development approval requirements also need to be reviewed to prevent any repeat of decisions being based on such antiquated attitudes.

I look forward to your response on these issues.

Yours faithfully

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

Paul French

Co-convenor

Central Business District Bicycle User Group

22 April 2008