



Hon Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Mr Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG
Via email: paul.french@cdbbug.org.au

Deputy Premier
Minister for Infrastructure
and Planning

Dear Mr French

Thank you for your letter to the Premier of 9 February 2009 on behalf of the Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle Users Group. The Premier has asked that I reply on behalf of the Government.

The Bligh Government values the important contribution cycling makes to active, healthy living and the development of a sustainable and effective transport system.

Cycling Infrastructure

A re-elected Bligh Government is committed to continuing to invest \$556 million in cycling infrastructure over twenty years under the *South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program 2006-2026*. The distribution of funding across the four sub-regions over the life of the Regional Plan is intended as follows:

- \$223 million to Greater Brisbane sub-region
- \$139 million to Gold Coast sub-region
- \$139 million to Sunshine Coast sub-region
- \$55 million to the Western Corridor

The *South East Queensland Cycle Network Program* is delivering facilities that will encourage increased usage of sustainable transport modes such as cycling. The *South East Queensland Cycle Network Program* has already delivered iconic projects such as the Normanby Pedestrian and Cycle Link (\$17.1 million), the Eenie Creek Cycle, Pedestrian and Fauna Bridge (\$600 000) and the King George Square Cycle Centre (\$4 million jointly funded with Brisbane City Council). A new 750 bike cycle centre is also under construction at the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

The most recent addition to Brisbane's cycle network is the Toowong Cycle and Pedestrian Overpass. The Bligh Government committed \$9.9 million to the construction of the overpass which crosses the Western Freeway near the Toowong roundabout. The Toowong Cycle and Pedestrian Overpass is a critical link in Brisbane's cycle network. It provides a safer crossing for cyclists and pedestrians over the Western Freeway, and will link up major local destinations, such as Mount Coot-tha Botanical Gardens, Anzac Park, the Bicentennial Bikeway and the CBD.

The Bligh Government is also working to make it safer and easier for cyclists to get around. The Department of Main Roads now provides cycle paths or on-road lanes in all road upgrades along key cycle routes. On other routes, Main Roads now builds in cycle friendly design in traffic operations, road-upgrading and maintenance projects. When planning and designing projects, Main Roads aims to develop facilities for cyclists to ride to work and school as well as riding for leisure and fitness.

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Current and future projects incorporating dedicated cycling facilities include:

- Tugun Bypass – Hidden Valley walking and cycle path legacy project
- Gateway Upgrade project (bridge duplication)
- Acacia Ridge rail crossing overpass
- Bribie Island Road upgrade project (Aerodrome Road to Saint Road)
- Bundaberg Ring Road
- Deception Bay Road (Bruce Highway to Lipscombe Rd)
- Forgan Bridge duplication
- Gold Coast Highway (Government Road to North Street)
- Granard Road intersections at Balham Road and Beatty Road
- Houghton Highway Bridge duplication
- Ipswich–Logan interchange
- Ipswich Motorway
- Maroochy Boulevard interchange
- Morayfield Road upgrade project (Bruce Highway to Gaffield Street)
- Port of Brisbane Motorway upgrade planning study
- Sunshine Motorway Projects — Maroochy Road to Pacific Paradise including Maroochy River Bridge
- Townsville–Thuringowa Ring Road Sections 2 and 3.
- Hope Island Road, Gold Coast
- Mulgrave Road upgrade, Cairns

The Government is also planning for a 4.5km bikeway at a cost of \$30 million from the Gateway Bridge north to Nudgee completing a missing link in the 150km Moreton Bay cycleway.

The Bligh Government has committed \$11 million over five years (starting in 2009-10) to maintenance, preservation and operations (including safety) of bicycle facilities on state controlled roads. Another \$16.5 million will be spent on pedestrian facilities to keep Queenslanders healthy and active.

Importantly, a re-elected Bligh Government will require end of trip facilities for cyclists (including racks, lockers and showers) in all new major developments around key activity centres and in all new office buildings greater than 2,000m². This will provide a significant boost to the facilities available to Queensland cyclists.

Safe Cycling

The Bligh Government is also making cycling as safe as possible for by targeting identified bicycle crash locations and pursuing the installation of eye-catching green coloured pavement in bicycle lanes.

The Bligh Government is also making cycling safe by increasing the awareness of all road users. The Queensland Transport publication *Your keys to driving in Queensland* includes road rules information on bicycles and cyclists and in the written road rules test there are three questions on bicycles/cyclists spread over six of the ten question sheets.

Queensland Transport provides ongoing information and safety tips on how cyclists can safely share the roads with other road users. Information is available through the Queensland Transport website, www.transport.qld.gov.au and through publications such as *Your Keys to Driving in Queensland* and *The Essential Driving Companion*. In addition, information on safe cycling was included in the School Road Safety 2009 kits, sent to all Prep and Year One and Two students throughout the state. The department also produces media releases and articles in the weekly publication, *Road Sense* on sharing the roads with cyclists.

Additionally, Queensland Transport administers the Safe Walking and Pedalling Program (SWAPP) which is aimed at children who walk and cycle to and from school. SWAPP fund projects up to \$10 000 for minor works to improve cycling and walking routes and community facilities.

Promoting Cycling

Queensland Transport also works directly with households through TravelSmart to reduce reliance on cars, encouraging people to use healthier, more environmentally friendly forms of travel such as public transport, walking, cycling and car pooling.

The world's largest TravelSmart behaviour change program is now underway, and will involve 324 000 South East Queensland homes to help reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Bligh Government has also committed an extra \$30,000 from Main Roads for regional cycling groups to promote activities such as Bike Week and safe cycling.

Fuel Subsidy

In relation to your request that the Queensland Government abolish the fuel subsidy scheme, I can advise that we have no plans to do this. The Government is examining alternative delivery mechanisms to ensure that the full savings from the subsidy are passed onto motorists.

Compulsory Third Party Insurance

In relation to the Motor Accident Insurance Commission, the Queensland Government's compulsory third party (CTP) insurance provides legal protection to vehicle owners and drivers who are legally liable for personal injury to any other party in the event of a motor vehicle accident.

CTP insurance provides cover for claims made by other road users such as drivers, passengers, pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and pillion passengers. The Government is not proposing changes to this system at this time.

Thank you again for your letter and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



PAUL LUCAS
Deputy Premier
Minister for Infrastructure and Planning