



**Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group
CBD BUG**

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[Mr Trevor Evans MP](#)

[Member for Brisbane](#)

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[Via Email: Trevor.Evans.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Trevor.Evans.MP@aph.gov.au)

Dear Mr Evans MP

The Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) is seeking your support as the Federal member for Brisbane in our call to have cycling infrastructure appropriately integrated into the Brisbane Metro project.

From publication of the first concept design plans for the Brisbane Metro project, which made no provision for the safety of the large number of people riding bikes in the CBD and adjoining South Brisbane precinct, the CBD BUG has vigorously sought design improvements catering to needs of the large number of people who want to ride bikes for transport.

In recognition of the project's initial design deficiencies late last year Lord Mayor Graham Quirk announced that protected bike lanes across Victoria Bridge would be delivered as part of the project, enabling people riding bikes to continue riding on-road across this bridge. The CBD BUG would like to stress that we are very happy regarding this amendment to the proposal. However, installing these bike lanes on the Victoria with unsafe connections at both ends will undermine their utility, as only the bravest of bicycle riders will be able to reach/use them. Hence, on 16 January 2019 the CBD BUG contacted the Lord Mayor requesting that the protected bike lanes be extended along North Quay & Adelaide St to George St.

Australia is currently facing an obesity epidemic with approximately 2 in 3 Australians overweight or obese¹ with the cost to the nation in excess of \$8.6 billion a year.² It has been widely acknowledged worldwide that there is a link between motor vehicle use (sedentary lifestyle) and the level of obesity in a population. The Australian Medical Association (AMA) points out that urban town planning has a key part to play in promoting physical activity. As you will understand, the CBD BUG is very focused on the provision of cycling infrastructure as a way to enable physical

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¹ <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/behaviours-risk-factors/overweight-obesity/overview>

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¹ <https://ama.com.au/position-statement/obesity-2016>

activity. The provision of safe, separated and direct cycling infrastructure has proven to be one of the most effective measures in enabling people to achieve the recommended level of physical activity via everyday active travel, whether it be travelling to work, school, or other locations. Providing this infrastructure so that Australians can integrate active transport into everyday activities and reduce their level of obesity will have wide ranging benefits to the federal budget, not least to the health portfolio.

The CBD BUG understands that Brisbane Metro will receive approximately one third of the funding for the project cost from the Federal Budget. With this in mind the Federal Parliament has an active role in ensuring that, as the AMA states, *“transport infrastructure should mandate the incorporation of measures to promote and facilitate physical activity.”*

Protected bike lanes have been wildly successful in encouraging people to embrace active transport (cycling) for everyday activities. Even in populations that do not have a history of so-called “cycling culture”, protected bike lanes have provided the safety, protection and appeal to the general population to use active transport (e.g. London, New York, City of Sydney). With this in mind the CBD BUG is seeking your support as the Federal member for Brisbane in our call for protected bike lanes to be installed along North Quay & Adelaide St to George St.

Only with all levels of government working together to build active transport infrastructure, promoting and enabling more activity, can we tackle the current sedentary lifestyle that Australia is suffering from. This will enable the obesity epidemic to be solved through the most cost-effective mechanism: encouraging the population to use active travel.

The CBD BUG looks forward to your response and support for our calling for the Victoria Bridge's protected bike lanes to be accessible for bicycle riders of all abilities via protected bike lanes to be installed along North Quay & Adelaide St to George St as part of the Brisbane Metro Project.

Yours sincerely



Donald Campbell
Co-convenor,
Brisbane CBD BUG
7 February 2019

CC

Hon. Grace Grace MP - McConnel

PS. The CBD BUG CC'd your office in the letter to the Brisbane Lord Mayor (16 January 2019) which can also be found at

<http://www.cbdbug.org.au/wp-content/uploads/20190116-CBD-BUG-Letter-Brisbane-Metro-A.pdf>

<http://www.cbdbug.org.au/wp-content/uploads/20190116-CBD-BUG-Letter-Brisbane-Metro-B.pdf>