



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group – CBD BUG

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Mr Ben Wilson
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Dear Ben

BQ – CBD BUG interactions and relationship

As you would be aware, the CBD BUG is an active organisation of city cyclists, representing and articulating the interests of the increasingly large number of Brisbane residents who commute or ride bicycles to, from and within the Central Business District. The group has more than 200 members, and potentially represents several thousand regular cyclists.

The CBD BUG meets regularly to discuss issues of concern and interest to CBD cyclists, including parking facilities, 'end-of-journey' facilities and the cycling routes to and from the CBD from Brisbane's suburbs. Our meetings usually draw between 20 to in excess of 40 members. At our September meeting, the interaction and relationship between our two organisations was discussed

Bicycle Queensland (BQ), as the peak organisation of cyclists in Queensland, is often the initial point of consultation on cycling issues, and unfortunately on a range of issues, including major infrastructure projects is the only group consulted (i.e. no local cyclists or BUGs have the opportunity to have input, or even detailed information). Traditionally, BQ appears to have operated as the equivalent of a Brisbane-wide BUG within the Brisbane area, but as the peak body representing cyclists in other parts of the state. At present, there is no formal relationship between BQ and CBD BUG (or any other BUG as far as I am aware). CBD BUG has tended to receive only occasional information on the stance or submissions BQ has taken or put on a range of issues of interest to us, rather than being routinely provided with copies of correspondence and submissions.

There was certainly a view at our September meeting that there is a lack of membership input, of transparency and of accountability in the development and conduct of BQ consultation and lodgement of submissions.

CBD BUG recognises and supports BQ as the peak body for cycling in Queensland. However, for local issues affecting local cyclists, we believe that BQ should share information with, contribute to, and get local BUGs involved in the consultation progress. Specifically, for projects that impact upon cycle facilities within the CBD and that affect cycling routes to and from the CBD, we request that BQ involve CBD BUG in any and all consultation. We also support the sharing of information in a timely manner between our two groups, and have accordingly provided copies of all representations and submissions made in recent months. These practices, we believe, will maximise the likelihood of the best possible outcome for cyclists.

I hope the above suggestions can lead to a closer relationship between BQ and CBD BUG. Perhaps at the next meeting involving BQ, CBD BUG and EaSTBUG, we can discuss these issues in greater detail. If you wish to clarify any issues raised in this letter, you can contact me on 3815 9403 (W), 0419 663329 (mobile) or by email on cbdbug@yahoo.com.au.

Yours sincerely

Paul Murdoch
Co-Convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG

23 October 2006

CC: David Saltwell, President EaSTBUG