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Re: CBD BUG letter to 2015 State Election candidate re need to foster bike riding

From: **Di Gittins** (di@digittins.com)
Sent: Monday, 26 January 2015 12:38:26 AM
To: Brisbane CBD BUG (convenors@cdbbug.org.au)
Cc: donald@cdbbug.org.au (donald@cdbbug.org.au); richardb@cdbbug.org.au (richardb@cdbbug.org.au); aaronb@cdbbug.org.au (aaronb@cdbbug.org.au); paulf@cdbbug.org.au (paulf@cdbbug.org.au)

Thank you for your email.

Although I have very limited knowledge of the needs of the cycling community my research over the past few hours has shown overwhelmingly that safety and upgraded infrastructure are key issues.

I have seen people from this area cycle to the city and I have heard on a few occasions that the main concern is the arrogance of drivers. As I have a focus on education I feel that changing the driving tests to incorporate more information on how to be aware of cyclists is key to changing the perception of bikes on the road.

I would also like to see dedicated lanes for cyclists that, if practical, are divided from traffic by bollards to protect all road users from potential accidents.

I am in support of any measures that allow people the freedom and safety to pursue their interests

Di Gittins
Independent Candidate
Ferry Grove Electorate
1300 656 838

On 25/01/2015 12:55 PM, Brisbane CBD BUG wrote:

Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group
CBD BUG
GPO Box 2104, Brisbane 4001
convenors@cdbbug.org.au
www.cdbbug.org.au

Ms Di Gittins
Independent candidate for Ferry Grove
C/- di@digittins.com

Dear Ms Gittins

This letter seeks your commitment as the Independent candidate for the seat of Ferry Grove in the 2015 Queensland State Election to increasing the proportion of trips made by bicycle.

As background for you to this letter, the Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) is a grass roots volunteer organisation of more than 700 members, representing the interests of the very large number of people riding

bicycles to, from and within the Brisbane city centre. It is active in seeking policy decisions at all levels of government supporting people who want to cycle, and in particular relating to improved infrastructure, end-of-trip facilities, integration of cycling needs with other transport modes and a regulatory environment friendly towards people riding bikes. Our members meet monthly to exchange information and ideas, discuss issues of relevance and determine the direction of policies to benefit CBD cyclists.

Australian Bureau of Statistics data indicates that almost 40% of trips to regular destinations by Brisbane residents are made via private motor vehicle over short distances that could instead easily be traveled by bicycle (or even walking). Importantly, enabling people to leave their cars at home and cycle (or walk) would have a range of benefits including: easing the cost of living; turning back the rising tide of obesity; reducing traffic congestion; alleviating pollution; increasing productivity and providing a safer and more socially-connected community.

A range of reputable studies also indicates that approximately 40% of the community would like to ride bikes more frequently, but is put off taking up cycling because of the lack of suitable infrastructure and concerns about the safety of cycling on-road. Women are particularly concerned about the dangers posed by motor vehicles.

In light of this compelling information, now is the time for the Queensland Government to increase its efforts to re-balance its approach to urban transport and prioritise cycling and walking ahead of driving.

Accordingly, the CBD BUG would like you to articulate how you envisage your constituents (aged 8 to 80 years) traveling safely by bike around your electorate and to/from the Brisbane CBD.

If you have any questions in relation to this letter please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely

Donald Campbell
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG
25 January 2015