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

From: **David Forde** (forde4stretton@hotmail.com)
Sent: Monday, 26 January 2015 6:26:34 AM
To: Brisbane CBD BUG (convenors@cdbbug.org.au)

Dear Donald

With a few days till election day I only have time for a very short response due to the significant tasks ahead. In short I support and encourage the use of cycling and used to cycle myself almost every day from Kuraby to the CBD to work, till an accident on the bike ended my cycling days. However, nearly every point that cycles use is on BCC infrastructure.

Kind Regards

David Forde

Independent Candidate for Stretton

Pride of Australia (Queensland) Medal 2014

0413 874 008

<https://www.facebook.com/Forde4Stretton>

Putting Our Community First

Date: Sun, 25 Jan 2015 09:44:31 +0000
From: convenors@cdbbug.org.au
To: forde4stretton@hotmail.com
CC: donald@cdbbug.org.au; richardb@cdbbug.org.au; aaronb@cdbbug.org.au;
paulf@cdbbug.org.au
Subject: CBD BUG letter to 2015 State Election candidate re need to foster bike riding

**Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group
CBD BUG
GPO Box 2104, Brisbane 4001**

convenors@cdbug.org.au
www.cdbug.org.au

Mr David Forde
Independent candidate for Stretton
C/- forde4stretton@hotmail.com

Dear Mr Forde

This letter seeks your commitment as the Independent candidate for the seat of Stretton 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