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Mr Paul French  
Co-Convenor  
Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG)  
GPO Box 2104  
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Dear Mr French

I refer to recent representations made on your behalf by the Honourable Annastacia Palaszczuk MP, Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs, in relation to your letter of 11 November 2011, about cycling access on the Inner City Bypass (ICB) and related cycling issues in the Bowen Hills area. As the ICB is Council's responsibility, the Minister has requested I consider your issues and reply to you directly.

I was pleased to hear that senior Council officers met with yourself and other members of the Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) recently to discuss your issues in detail. I would like to thank you and your fellow CBD BUG members for taking the time to meet with Council and the openness in discussing issues of importance to your organisation.

I understand Mr Glen Miney, Principal Engineer, Transport Network, outlined the changes in traffic conditions that are likely to continue to occur on the ICB at Bowen Hills as a result of the construction of CLEM7, Airport Link and Legacy Way. In particular, these developments have resulted in increased traffic lanes in some locations, replacement of at-grade roads with elevated ramps, and frequent changing of traffic lane configurations during construction of the new facilities.

As you are aware, in order to ensure the safety of all road users including cyclists, access to the ICB in and around the Bowen Hills area has been restricted in a number of locations. These include a restriction on cyclists using the new access ramps to CLEM7 and the future Airport Link, and restrictions in cyclists being able to cross traffic lanes on the ICB.

I understand your concerns that the existing signage and line markings in the Bowen Hills area are inconsistent and that this may be leading to conflicts between cyclists and drivers. As outlined at your meeting, Council will undertake a review of all cyclist signage and line marking at the Bowen Hills site and undertake works to provide a consistent system. This work will be undertaken by the end of March.

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I apologise for any confusion that may have arisen over past undertakings to re-open access to the ICB on completion of CLEM7. As you may appreciate, the subsequent design of Airport Link, the Northern Busway and related access ramps by the Queensland Government has resulted in a significant change to the road layout at Bowen Hills. Traffic conditions on the ICB at Bowen Hills may also require further changes to accommodate movements between Legacy Way and Airport Link and CLEM7. This could include upgrading sections of the ICB to motorway status, which under Queensland Government road rules, would exclude on-road cyclists.

As discussed at the meeting, it is not possible for Council to guarantee that full cycling access will be restored to all sections of the ICB. However, Council is committed to working with the Queensland Government to provide safe cycle options through the Bowen Hills area.

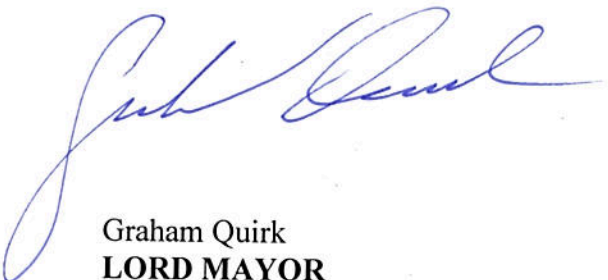
I understand Council officers discussed some of the projects currently underway, including an off-road pathway between Federation Street and O'Connell Terrace, and Council's improvements in O'Connell Terrace. Council will also continue to work with the Queensland Government and other parties to secure a future connection from O'Connell Terrace through the RNA Exhibition Show Grounds to our existing bikeway in Victoria Park.

Council acknowledges the CBD BUG's request to consider a future cycle connection from Bowen Hills to the Milton-Toowong area that bypasses the CBD. As Mr Lindsay Enright, Team Leader, Active Transport, outlined at your meeting, Council's new Draft Active Transport Strategy has a strong focus on developing an integrated commuter cycle network, with links to all major employment areas in Brisbane. As Mr Enright also explained, the investigation and development of this network will be staged to match city-wide priorities and funding availability. Council's primary investigations in the next few years are likely to be focused on the CBD to Chermside link and the CBD to Wynnum Manly links. I understand both of these links are supported by the CBD BUG. I have asked that a future Bowen Hills to Milton-Toowong link be listed in Council's future bikeway rolling program for investigation.

I also understand Council officers have agreed to review the cycling connection from the ICB to O'Connell Terrace, including crossing points on Campbell Street, to see if we need better line markings, signs or mid-block crossing facilities. This review will be completed by the end of February 2012. Mr Enright will then contact you in March to advise what works can be done this financial year and what may be programmed in future years.

Should you have any further queries, please phone Mr Enright on 3403 8888.

Yours sincerely



Graham Quirk  
**LORD MAYOR**

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