



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

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Ms Di Farmer MP
Member for Bulimba
901 Wynnum Road
CANNON HILL QLD 4170

Dear Ms Farmer

Creating cyclist links between the eastern suburbs and the Brisbane CBD

This letter requests you meet with Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) representatives to discuss the creation of safe routes for bike riders to connect the eastern suburbs to the Brisbane CBD.

The background to this letter is that Brisbane's eastern suburbs are particularly poorly served by bikeways, resulting in very few people cycling for work, educational, shopping, social or other purposes. With one of the principal reasons given by people for not cycling being their perception about safety it is not surprising that data held by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) indicates the level of cycling on Brisbane's east side is languishing in comparison to the southern and western regions where some major cycling infrastructure has been installed.

While multi-billion dollar investments by various levels of government infrastructure for motorists have rapidly progressed, eastern suburb cyclists feel they have been forgotten. The few local residents brave enough to currently cycle have been left to run the gauntlet of large volumes of fast moving motor vehicle traffic that commonly includes heavy vehicles, and use narrow streets with shoulders that are routinely blocked by on-street car parking. At the same time traffic congestion continues to choke the city and cost the community billions of dollars annually in economic, health, social and environmental losses.

There is an increasing awareness across the community of the need for a change away from the current car-focused approach of government, to instead assisting people to take up cycling as a viable alternative.

To enable eastern suburb residents to much more easily cycle to the city the Brisbane CBD BUG proposes two key pieces of infrastructure need to be delivered within the term of the next Queensland Government. The first of these is a cross-river green bridge for pedestrians and bike riders directly linking Bulimba and Teneriffe.

While it is acknowledged that the cost of this infrastructure would be substantial, the cost to the community of ongoing government inaction on this missing link is in all likelihood much greater. Furthermore, it is notable that cost benefit ratios exceeding 1:4 are not unknown for this type of infrastructure - dwarfing the ratios for car-focused projects such as the 1:1.2 calculated for the Legacy Way tunnel.

You are already on the public record as a supporter of this proposed infrastructure and the CBD BUG welcomes your ongoing endorsement of this much needed and long overdue connection. However, the 20 year timeframe for delivering this infrastructure articulated by your colleague Stirling Hinchliffe MP appears grossly excessive in the face of the dire need to provide Brisbane residents with alternatives to replace the private motor car as the default transport option and thereby address Brisbane's chronic traffic congestion.

There is already strong community support for this bridge, evidenced by the River City Blueprint Forum Report, which details that a bridge connecting Bulimba to Newstead was given the top priority by forum participants who were asked to rank the potential new bridges in order of preference.

The potential success of this bridge is undeniable; with the number of daily users of the Goodwill Bridge a clear indicator of the benefits of this form of project.

The second element of bicycle rider infrastructure the CBD BUG views as a high priority to address the low levels of bicycle commuting between Brisbane's eastern suburbs and the CBD is provision of a safe and direct bike commuter route connecting Carindale to the CBD.

In regard to this priority the current *SEQ Principal Cycle Network Plan* (Map 8) indicates there are two potential routes from the vicinity of the Carindale Shopping Centre. However, these routes remain to this time as "Future Principal Routes" – meaning they are like so many other cycling projects in having an undefined timeframe for delivery.

Along with the other CBD BUG representatives I look forward to discussing with you the implementation of this cycling infrastructure, which is absolutely critical to Brisbane's liveability and sustainability.

Yours sincerely



Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG

24 January 2012

CC: President EaST BUG