



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

GPO Box 2104, Brisbane 4001

0423 974 825

convenors@cbdbug.org.au

www.cbdbug.org.au

The Right Honourable Campbell Newman
Lord Mayor of Brisbane
GPO Box 2287
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Lord Mayor

This letter seeks your action on addressing a range of issues negatively effecting cyclist permeability of the Brisbane Central Business District in and around King George Square (KGS).

Albert Street and Turbot Street intersection

The poor design of the intersection of Albert Street and Turbot Street currently presents major issues for cyclists.

Cyclists heading towards the central city along Albert Street in an easterly direction from Wickham Terrace are currently not meant to continue along Albert Street because they are confronted with "No entry" signage when they reach the intersection of Albert Street and Turbot Street.

Instead, they are required to turn left into Turbot St. However, this section of Turbot Street is an extremely cyclist-unfriendly environment as it has a 60 kmh speed limit, an uphill gradient, no shoulder to afford cyclists refuge from the line of traffic and carries large amounts of motor vehicles including many heavy vehicles.

Not surprisingly, because of the personal risks to cyclists from observing the left turn into Turbot Street many cyclists choose instead to risk being booked by over-zealous police for proceeding straight ahead against the signage. While the cyclists observed to be adopting this approach are not inconvenienced by the current situation the CBD BUG views it as unacceptable - not only for the fact that cyclists are obliged to contravene traffic signage for their own safety, but also when pedestrians and motorists see this behaviour, from their perspectives the status of cyclists is highly likely to be diminished.

To remedy this situation cyclists should to be enabled to travel in both directions along the section of Albert Street between Turbot Street and Ann Street.

Albert Street, Ann Street and Roma Street intersection

Both cyclists and pedestrians are poorly served by the current design of this intersection.

Two issues of particular concern are that the only crossing marked for cyclists at this intersection is at the end of the City Hall driveway; while cyclists and pedestrians approaching this intersection along Albert St from the north-west are at risk from motorists turning right into Albert Street from Ann Street.

Apart from installing additional cyclists crossing lights at this intersection is also suggested that the stop line for traffic travelling south-west along Ann Street is set back an additional 15 metres and the entire crossing widened by this distance to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists.

King George Square

Council has recently erected signs around the perimeter of making it an offence to ride a bike in the square. While the CBD BUG strongly supports Council pedestrianising the CBD, installing this signage has been a retrograde step for cyclists. This is because KGS has traditionally been a safe route for cyclists away from motorised traffic, particularly for cyclists travelling between the Roma Street Parklands and the eastern end of the CBD. Another factor explaining the popularity of riding through this space is its very close proximity to the KGS Cycle Centre.

The CBD BUG understands there may be concerns about potential collisions between cyclists and pedestrians in this space. However, prior to this signage being installed the overwhelmingly majority of cyclists riding through KGS were observed to be showing due care by travelling at very low speeds.

The CBD BUG is strongly of the view that cyclists should be able to legally ride through KGS. The CBD BUG suggests prominent signage about appropriate cyclist behaviour/speeds would allow pedestrians and cyclists to safely share this space.

I look forward to your response on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me on 0423 974 825 if you or your staff wish to discuss the issues raised in this letter matter.

Yours sincerely



Paul French
Co-convenor
Central Business District Bicycle Users Group

14 September 2010