



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

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Queensland Heritage Council
C/- Manager
Queensland Heritage Council and Development
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
GPO Box 2454
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Dear Sir or Madam

**Submission on development by the State - Bowen Park, O'Connell Terrace, Bowen Hills
and Brisbane Exhibition Grounds, Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills
(Project Reference No. 335052)**

This submission is to convey the strong support of the Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) for the proposed development of a section of the North Brisbane Cycleway (NBC) alongside the south-eastern boundary of Bowen Park (QHR 601523) and within a small part of the Brisbane Exhibition Grounds (QHR 601709).

As a general principle the CBD BUG supports protecting places of cultural heritage significance. It is noted this proposal has only become necessary due to the total reluctance at all levels of government to re-allocate road space from motorists to cyclists in order to deliver the much needed and long overdue NBC that will address the pressing need for a safe, off-road cyclist link between the CBD and Brisbane's northern suburbs.

Sadly, it is understood the need to construct this cycleway through Bowen Park has also resulted from the RNA's refusal to allow the cycleway to be routed along its side of the boundary fence between its property and Bowen Park, land that is currently used for most of the year as a public car park.

The CBD BUG suggests that incorporation of the NBC into the RNA's redevelopment would complement the RNA's proposed development, including access to the CBD and the liveability of proposed residential and commercial sites in and around the RNA precinct. The RNA's uncooperative attitude towards this short section of the NBC has been highly disappointing to say the least. This view is reinforced when it is considered that the NBC will be a critical community facility providing considerable benefit to the RNA by creating a direct, cyclist and pedestrian friendly route from the CBD to its door and would have such minor impacts on their site.

The following comments are provided with respect to the Cultural Heritage Significance Criterion as per the Queensland Heritage Register.

Criterion A

The proposal does not appear to impact to any significant extent on Bowen Park's survival as a remnant of the broader site formerly occupied by the Queensland Acclimatisation Society.

Importantly, this section of the proposed cycleway will actually re-establish the historical link between Bowen Park and York's Hollow and provide increased opportunities for residents and visitors to appreciate the park's amenity and recreational opportunities.

Criterion D

It is understood the proposed development will have some impact with respect to this criterion in terms of proposed changes to the garden beds. However, the primary heritage features of Bowen Park from a user perspective would not be significantly affected. The design sensitively deals to the best of its ability to minimise heritage impacts. The community's current usage of Bowen Park is limited and the linkage would encourage people to engage with the park.

There are some additional benefits including hopefully removing the Chinese Celtis a class 3 weed and enhancement and establishment of more appropriate plantings along the overgrown and little utilised boundary with the RNA showgrounds.

Criterion E

Bowen Park's heritage built elements, which include the rotunda – bandstand, toilets building, gates and bus shelter are located closer to Bowen Bridge Road and will not be impacted by the proposed cyclepath.

It is understood that the raised, stone edged garden at the park's northern entrance where the existing Council maintenance driveway is located will be the location for the cyclepath's entry to the park. Because of the driveway the proposed cycleway would have a limited degree of impact on the heritage significance of the stone edged bed and the plants.

Criterion G

Through increasing both pedestrian and bicycle rider traffic through Bowen Park the proposed development is expected to enhance the public's continuous use of this green open space as a public park for pleasure and recreation.


Criterion H

The proposed development is viewed as having little to no impact on the park's association with historical figures.

As previously stated the CBD BUG supports protecting places of cultural heritage significance. In this case the impact on the park would be minimal, and compared to the overall benefit to the broader community arising from the proposed cycleway the impacts are worth the change to enhance community engagement with the park.

In conclusion, the CBD BUG strongly supports the proposed development.

Yours faithfully



Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG

11 November 2013