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## Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

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

Dear Lord Mayor

### **Proposed closure of Stanley Street footpath for Queensland Children's Hospital works**

In May 2010 the Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) wrote to you to convey its vehement opposition of the Abigroup being granted a permit from the Brisbane City Council to close a section of the Stanley Street footpath for up to three years during the construction of the Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH) next to the existing Mater Children's Hospital in South Brisbane.

The CBD BUG's opposition to the prolonged and continuous closure of this footpath is based on the fact that in being in very close proximity to the city and Southbank, this footpath is heavily used by both cyclists and pedestrians. Importantly, as Stanley Street carries high volumes of motorised traffic this footpath is an enabling factor for cyclists who do not feel safe to ride on-road in this area. The proposed alternate route (the footpath on the northern side of Stanley Street) is narrow and inadequate for the increase in pedestrian and cyclist traffic the proposed closure would impose.

However, through the ongoing formal consultation on the progress of the QCH works the CBD BUG understands the Abigroup still intends to persist in seeking to close this footpath, now from 2011 to the end of the project in 2013. The reason given to the CBD BUG for this total closure is that the Abigroup wants to reduce its potential risk due to the possibility that a cyclist may be injured as a result of not obeying a traffic controller's direction.

The CBD BUG totally rejects this proposition, as it means increasing the risk and inconvenience to the overwhelming majority of footpath users on the basis that a very small minority may not observe traffic controller directions. The Abigroup has suggested that should people who disobey traffic controllers be subsequently injured, they would have a case for suing the Abigroup.

However, the CBD BUG suggests that anyone who was injured as a result of disregarding an Abigroup traffic controller's direction would have limited grounds for litigating against the Abigroup. Furthermore, the CBD BUG suggests the Abigroup's approach is aimed at minimising the firm's potential risk by shifting the additional risk (and inconvenience) to Stanley Street footpath users.

The CBD BUG's position is that the additional safety consequences of any footpath closure would far exceed any safety issues arising from the continued use of the footpath under appropriately managed processes.

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 this matter.

Yours faithfully



Paul French  
Co-convenor

Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

26 October 2010

CC: Cr Helen Abrahams, The Gabba Ward  
Mr Ben Wilson, Manager, Bicycle Queensland