



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

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Office of the Information Commission
PO Box 10143
Adelaide Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir or Madam

Renewal of non-profit organisation financial hardship status under the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld)

This is an application for a renewal of the Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) financial hardship status under the Right to Information Act (RTI Act) granted on 25 November 2010 (Attachment 1). The following details are provided to support this renewal.

CBD BUG background information

The CBD BUG is a non-profit organisation of city cyclists, representing and articulating the interests of the very large number of Brisbane residents who commute or ride bicycles to, from and within Brisbane's city centre. The group now has over 600 members, and potentially advocates on behalf of the several thousand regular people who cycle to the CBD each day.

The CBD BUG was established in early 2005 to:

- monitor and identify CBD cycling facilities (and deficiencies);
- act as a resource for CBD commuter cyclists;
- lobby for improvements; and
- act as a network of cycle commuters and other bike users in the CBD.

In accordance with its constitution, general meetings have been convened for members every month over the previous year, with meetings occurring in the Brisbane City Council's Central Library free community meeting facilities on the following dates.

15 December 2010
19 January 2011
23 February 2011
30 March 2011
27 April 2011
25 May 2011
29 June 2011
27 July 2011
31 August 2011
28 September 2011
26 October 2011
23 November 2011

The CBD BUG's constitution remains unchanged from the version provided in support of its original application for RTI hardship status, a copy of which is provided at Attachment 2.

Financial situation of the CBD BUG

The CBD BUG's finances are as limited as they were at the time of the initial application for financial hardship lodged in October 2010.

Other than a few cents of interest earned on the CBD BUG's only bank account, no other revenue has been earned during the previous 12 months.

The CBD BUG continues to have no physical assets and in limiting its activities purely to advocacy, does not require public liability or other insurance. No membership fees are charged.

The CBD BUG remains unincorporated, and does not have a Tax File Number or Australian Business Number. Accordingly, the organisation has not been required to prepare financial statements, tax returns or Business Activity Statements.

The CBD BUG's assets are limited to:

1. one Credit Union Australia (CUA) account – current balance \$275.09 (photocopy of CUA account statement for the March 2011 quarter and interim account statement dated 11 November 2011 refer Attachments 3 and 4)
2. a website (www.cbdbug.org.au), and
3. Twitter account (<http://twitter.com/#!/cbdbug>).

Members of the executive committee continue to meet the CBD BUG's operating costs, such as postage, printing and website hosting, from their personal resources.

This information clearly demonstrates the continuing non-profit nature of the Brisbane CBD BUG and its strictly limited finances.

Providing a service in the public interest

There are a numerous, clear, evidenced based benefits to individuals, the broader community and governments of all levels through increasing the proportion of people who leave their cars at home and cycle instead. Despite the pressing need to give people more travel choices other than the private motor vehicle and thereby achieve these benefits, government and council politicians generally continue to be pursue their own short term self interest by pandering to the corporate vested interests that profit from the status quo of excessive private vehicle dependence. This occurs at the expense of the broader community, an increasing number of whom are now realising that public and active transport should be the higher priorities for transport infrastructure spending.

The CBD BUG is easily the most proactive cyclist advocacy group in Brisbane and possibly Queensland. During the last 12 months it has identified and taken up many issues with the Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council negatively impacting on cyclists and holding back cycling's growth.

In addition to these direct advocacy efforts, the CBD BUG regularly has guest speakers attending its monthly meetings in order to provide information for its members on events / projects / initiatives and other matters of importance to local cyclists.

Primarily on the basis of awareness of its activities spreading via word of mouth the CBD BUG now has more than 600 members, a clear and unambiguous endorsement from the community of its activities.

Responsible use of the right to access to documents under RTI legislation

The CBD BUG leadership group is acutely aware of the potential additional workload for public servants and costs to agencies arising from RTI applications. Accordingly, CBD BUG RTI applications have been lodged judiciously and only in relation to issues directly relevant to the organisation's advocating on behalf of cyclists.

This approach has resulted in only three (3) applications being lodged during the preceding 12 months.

Date	Agency	Subject
26/11/10	Queensland Health	Proposed long term closure of the Stanley Street footpath for construction of the Qld Children's Hospital
29/3/11	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Report on the investigation by the Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety-Queensland (CARRS-Q) of national and international evidence on helmet wearing by cyclists, commissioned by the Department of Transport and Main Roads
9/11/11	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Planning of the Northern Veloway, also known as the U11 and/or Northern Cycleway, referred to at page 27 of the <i>Queensland Cycle Strategy 2011-2021</i> as "providing a high quality cycle corridor from the CBD to Kedron and ultimately Chermshire"

If clarification on any issue is required please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone on 0423 974 825 or via email to convenors@cbdbug.org.au.

I look forward to your response on this application.

Yours faithfully



Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG

24 November 2011