



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group – CBD BUG

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CBD BUG report

State Cycle Committee meeting of 8 Nov 2006

The Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle Users' Group (CBD BUG) is an 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 the Brisbane City Centre. The group has almost 250 members, potentially advocates on behalf of the several thousand regular cyclists and is a primary consultation point for matters concerning cycling in and into the Brisbane CBD.

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 cycle users in the CBD.

CBD BUG is not incorporated, and conducts its affairs via monthly meetings of members. It has two co-convenors (currently Paul Murdoch and Sebastian Tauchmann), who are responsible for organising meetings, agenda, speakers, correspondence, maintenance of the BUG website <http://cdbbug.googlepages.com/> and email account (cdbbug@yahoo.com.au).

The CBD BUG's monthly meetings involve the wide provision and sharing of information on cycling-related issues, as well as discussion of issues and decision-making on matters of concern and interest to CBD cyclists. Guest speakers from relevant government and private organisations regularly provide presentations on subjects of interest – presentations have included such topics as the King George Square cycle facility, busway planning and the construction of the NSBT project. Meetings are generally attended by between 25-35 members, with many members attending intermittently. A number of members are also actively involved in identifying issues, problems and positions via electronic communications. Individual members take on responsibility for preparing CBD BUG submissions, and co-ordinating the group's involvement in projects and consultative processes.

The CBD BUG has a close and constructive relationship with Brisbane City Council, particularly the Active Transport Unit, as well as a number of areas and staff within Queensland Transport (QT). Networking with other BUGs and Bicycle Queensland on issues of mutual interest has also been a key CBD BUG priority.

CBD BUG activities and achievements to date include:

- an on-going survey of city cyclists regarding cycling issues, facilities and numbers (see example survey overleaf);
- developed a comprehensive data-base of parking and end-of-trip (EOT) facilities in CBD buildings, and organised tours of CBD 'best practice' facilities;
- regularly met with, lobbied and written to a range of State Government and Brisbane City Council politicians and officials on issues of major concern to commuter cyclists (e.g. cycle network plans, improved commuter routes, reduced vehicle speeds, provision of appropriate EOT facilities, the need for a commercial bicycle centre, improved bicycle provisions in City Plan and issues in busway planning etc.);
- provided advice, encouragement and support to individual members/groups of members seeking to negotiate the provision or upgrading of parking or other EOT facilities;
- established a 'bike buddy' scheme for new/inexperienced cyclists, to encourage higher rates of commuting by bike;
- publicised, lobbied and opposed unnecessary and avoidable disruption, detours and closures of major cycling routes; and
- drafted a number of comprehensive submissions, lodged after extensive discussion amongst BUG members, giving cyclists a direct voice in government planning and policy development. These include the draft CBD Masterplan, QT's Smart Travel Choices Green Paper and the Hale Street Link.

The number of cyclists in the Brisbane CBD and surrounds has visibly and dramatically increased in recent years – CBD BUG aspires to assist in ensuring that facilities, routes, infrastructure and road rules and government policies meet their needs, and fosters the continued growth of cycling in order to achieve target rates and a healthier community and safer cleaner environment for all.

Paul Murdoch
Co-convenor