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## Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

### CBD BUG

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The Honourable Phil Reeves MP  
Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport  
GPO Box 806  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

### **Cyclist end of trip facilities at Stadiums Queensland venues**

This letter seeks your action to ensure all venues operated by Stadiums Queensland offer appropriate end of trip facilities for cyclists and encourage active transport modes.

The Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) is a grass roots volunteer organisation of almost 600 members, representing the interests of the very large number of Brisbane residents who ride bicycles to, from and within the Brisbane city centre. It is active in vigorously policies at all levels of government that support cycling, and in particular relating to improved infrastructure, end of trip facilities, integration of cycling with other transport modes and a cyclist-friendly regulatory environment. The CBD BUG meets regularly to discuss issues of concern and interest to CBD cyclists, including parking facilities, end of trip facilities and the cycling routes to and from the CBD from Brisbane's suburbs.

The reason for this letter is that CBD BUG members have cycled to events at numerous Stadiums Queensland venues, only to find that cyclist end of trip facilities such as secure bike storage are either woefully inadequate e.g. Suncorp Stadium, or totally absent e.g. The Gabba and Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre.

Furthermore, because of the inadequate short term bike storage at Suncorp Stadium cyclists have been obliged to chain their bikes to fittings other than the installed bike racks, only to find upon returning to their bikes that venue security staff had left written messages threatening to remove their bikes if parked in the same location again, even though where they were parked did not cause any inconvenience or hazard.

Finally, the failure by Stadiums Queensland to adequately cater for and encourage cycling has been evident through the manner in which the Brisbane Internal tennis tournament organisers have not developed an adequate traffic management plan for two successive years, and instead simply arranged for the closure of King Arthur Terrace during the annual Brisbane International.

King Arthur Terrace is an essential route for commuter and recreational cyclists and closing this thoroughfare forces cyclists back on to Tennyson Memorial Drive, which through carrying high volumes of fast moving traffic means significant additional risk to cyclists. The diversion of cyclists from King Arthur Terrace has extended to well outside the periods of tournament play when there was no pedestrian traffic in this area, highlighting the lack of consideration that has gone into this road closure. The CBD BUG understands from Brisbane City Council advice that this closure has been negotiated directly between tournament organisers and the local police station staff.

Given the Queensland Government's need to encourage people to adopt more active lifestyles and the claims by Stadiums Queensland of operating world-class, state-of-the-art sports venues, it is imperative the agency adopts an appropriate policy on the provision of cyclist end of trip facilities and fostering cycling.

In the draft *Connecting SEQ 2031 An Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland* the government has set an ambitious target to double the rate of active transport mode share across the region.

Accordingly, can you please supply us with the current location and number of casual bicycle racks and secure bike enclosures at each facility controlled by Stadiums Queensland.

In addition can you advise us what is the planned increase and/or improvement in bike parking at these facilities over the coming forward estimates period.

On the transport page of The Gabba website (<http://www.thegabba.com.au/The-Venue/Getting-Here.aspx>) advice is provided on how to get there: 1. By Bus 2. By Train 3. By Car. Is Stadiums Queensland intending to follow the lead of the other well know venues such as the Sydney Cricket Ground that has cycling as one of the transport options <http://www.scgt.nsw.gov.au/events/transport/>?

In concluding, I would point to the numerous positive reactions I have personally received from other patrons at Stadiums Queensland venues when they have observed my arrival or departure by bike; with a common remark being that they wish they had thought to ride their bike. This response aligns with the high levels of latent demand for cycling infrastructure and information more broadly evident across Brisbane and Queensland.

I look forward to your response on these issues.

Yours faithfully

Paul French  
Co-convenor  
Brisbane CBD BUG

24 March 2011