



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle Users Group

CBD BUG

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The Honourable Rachel Nolan MP
Minister for Transport
GPO Box 2644
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

Connecting the new RBWH Cycle Centre to existing cycling infrastructure

This letter seeks your action to ensure the newly opened Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) Cycle Centre is now appropriately connected to other existing cycling infrastructure.

The reason for this letter is that while the new RBWH Cycle Centre is a fantastic addition to Brisbane's cycling end-of-trip facilities, the roads and streets in the immediate region surrounding it are both completely dominated by private motor vehicles and lacking appropriate on and off-road cycling infrastructure. Additionally, as you would be aware Brisbane's northern suburbs are particularly under-serviced in terms of safe and appropriate cycle paths and lanes. In combination these factors mean current and future potential users are severely restricted in, and in some cases prevented from, accessing the cycle centre safely.

Accordingly, at the October 2009 meeting of the Business Central District Bicycle Users Group (CBD BUG) members resolved that a request be made for the appropriate connections to be made that will enable current and potential new users to safely access the centre by bike.

The following are some of the specific upgrades CBD BUG members have identified to improve cyclist accessibility to the RBWH Cycle Centre.

- 1) Build an elevated structure to connect Mann Park and Northey Street.
- 2) Install cyclist crossing lanterns at the following intersections:
 - a) Butterfield Street and Bowen Bridge Road
 - b) Campbell Street and Bowen Bridge Road
 - c) O'Connell Terrace and Bowen Bridge Road, and
 - d) Herston Road and Bowen Bridge Road.
- 3) To provide a link to the Bowen Hills Railway Station by building a new cycle way along O'Connell Terrace and Campbell Street.

- 4) Improve access from the RBWH to Fortitude Valley and Newstead via a new cycle lanes along Gregory Terrace and Brookes Street.
- 5) Establish an on-road cycling route between the new Noble Street Bridge and the RBWH.
- 6) Construct a cycling route between Gilchrist Avenue and the new RBWH cycle centre.
- 7) Allow cyclists heading from the Noble Street Bridge on Butterfield Street to turn right at the roundabout located at the junction of Butterfield Street and Garrick Terrace.

The CBD BUG understands that the construction of these infrastructure items is not the sole responsibility of the Department of Transport and Main Roads. However, the CBD BUG's position is that having constructed the cycle centre the State Government has a responsibility to take the lead on ensuring people can reach it by bike. There is plenty of data indicating that the number one reason people won't cycle is because of safety concerns, which is primarily attributable to the lack of appropriate on and off-road cycling infrastructure. Therefore, it clearly makes little sense to install such a facility if it will be under-utilised due to a lack of connectivity. The results of such an approach are likely to provide ammunition for motorist lobby groups in claiming there are poor returns on government expenditure on cycling infrastructure.

Yours faithfully



Paul French
Co-convenor
Central Business District Bicycle Users Group

15 December 2009

CC. RBWH BUG
Lord Mayor Campbell Newman
Grace Grace MP, Member for Brisbane Central