



---

**Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle Users Group**  
**CBD BUG**  
**GPO Box 2104, Brisbane 4001**  
**0423 974 825**  
**convenors@cbdbug.org.au**  
**www.cbdbug.org.au**

---

The Right Honourable Campbell Newman  
Lord Mayor of Brisbane  
GPO Box 287  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Lord Mayor

This letter covers two issues relating to vehicle speed limits in and around the Brisbane Central Business District (CBD).

Firstly, on behalf of the 400 strong Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle Users Group (CBD BUG) I wish to congratulate you for reducing the speed limit in the Brisbane CBD to 40 km/h.

Reducing the CBD speed limit is a significant step forward in changing the nature of Brisbane's suburbs and thoroughfares away from being completely dominated by motor cars. The experience of CBD BUG members since the speed limit reduction has been an enhanced sense of safety while riding in the city. Your action on this issue sets a high standard for the mayors of other Australian cities.

However, there are some anomalies in the speed limits around the CBD that the CBD BUG will bring to your attention as they become apparent. Accordingly, this letter seeks your action to reduce the speed limit on the Victoria Bridge to 40 km/h to bring it in line with the roads on either side.

The signed 60km/h speed limit on the Victoria Bridge is inconsistent with the 50km/h speed limit in the zone at the bridge's South Brisbane end, and even more inconsistent with the 40 km/h speed limit zone at its CBD end. The higher speed limit for the relatively short span of the bridge provides little or no benefit to motorists but higher vehicle speeds and inconsistency of speed limits present a danger to cyclists.

CBD BUG members who ride on the road across the Victoria Bridge have raised concerns about cyclist safety due to the width of the lanes they share with motorised traffic and the speeds of vehicles using the bridge. The traffic lanes on the Victoria Bridge are quite narrow, and a lower speed limit is required to enable cyclists to use the bridge safely. The risk to cyclists riding to the city in the morning is also increased due to drivers' ability to see cyclists being impeded by glare from the sun.

The Victoria Bridge is an important river crossing for cyclists, even with the nearby Goodwill Bridge and soon to be completed Kurilpa Bridge. Cycle traffic on the Victoria Bridge is highly likely to increase even further following the introduction of an additional 2,000 bicycles into the CBD via the Brisbane City Council's bicycle hire scheme.

Accordingly, to enhance the safety of cyclists riding on-road across the Victoria Bridge the CBD BUG calls for the bridge's speed limit to be reduced to 40km/h. A 40km/h speed limit will align with the CBD's speed limit, and there is a wealth of evidence indicating that collision frequency and the likelihood of serious or fatal injury for vulnerable road users increase in a manner disproportionate to increases in traffic speed.

Based on the Victoria Bridge's approximate length of 350 metres the time difference for motorists driving across the bridge at the lower speed limit of 40km/h instead of the current 60km/h is less than 10 seconds. The CBD BUG's view is that this additional travel time is insignificant when compared to the potential value of a cyclist's life or health should they be struck by a motor vehicle.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul French', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Paul French  
Co-convenor  
Central Business District Bicycle Users Group

17 July 2009