



**Brisbane Central Business District
Bicycle User Group - CBD BUG
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«CandidateTitle» «CandidateFirstName» «CandidateSurname»
«CandidateAddressLineOne»

Dear «CandidateTitle» «CandidateSurname»

In the lead up to the 2008 Brisbane City Council (BCC) Election the Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) has monitored the commitments of candidates to increase council expenditure on cycling structure, in order to foster growth in the level of cycling in Brisbane. The CBD BUG will be analysing all election commitments relating to cycling with the intention of providing this analysis to members. Background information on the CBD BUG is provided in the attachment to this letter.

The 2008 election campaign commitments to accelerate the rollout of cycling infrastructure will make some headway on catching up with the neglect by previous councils to encourage the growth of cycling as one of the effective responses to traffic congestion.

However, there are other non-infrastructure issues that are barriers to the desired outcome. One is the CBD traffic speed limit, a major safety risk for cyclists and a deterrent to people who would otherwise like to try cycling in Brisbane. The increasing number of pedestrians being killed or injured in the CBD is another indicator vehicle speeds in the CBD need to be reduced. Accordingly, the CBD BUG wants the Brisbane CBD speed limit reduced to 40 km/h. This speed limit is not unusual or unreasonable, as cities in many other countries, such as New Zealand, already have a 30km/h speed limit.

Additionally, there is the inadequacy or even absence of end of trip (EOT) facilities in many buildings in Brisbane's CBD. Installing appropriate EOT facilities is essential for enabling staff, customers and visitors to cycle. Accordingly, the BCC's enforcement of these requirements of developers and/or building owners/managers/tenants to maintain, install, maintain and enable access to appropriate EOT facilities is an initiative the CBD BUG would strongly support.

The CBD BUG also supports the BCC introducing a subsidy scheme whereby employers (or building operators) are encouraged to retrofit buildings with EoT facilities in order to encourage increased cycling, similar to the current subsidy for installing rain-water tanks.

If you have any questions in relation to this letter please do not hesitate to contact me directly via telephone on 0423 974 825 or email to paul.french@cbdbug.org.au

Yours faithfully

Paul French
CBD BUG Co-convenor
February 2008

CBD BUG BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The CBD BUG is a non-partisan organisation formed to represent the interests of the very large number of Brisbane residents who commute or ride bicycles to, from and within the Brisbane city centre. Since its formation in early 2005 the CBD BUG has grown to have over 300 members, and potentially represents several thousand regular cyclists.

The CBD BUG was established to:

- monitor and assess CBD cycling facilities;
- act as a resource for CBD commuter cyclists;
- directly lobby politicians and policy makers and represent the interests of cyclists to obtain improved cycling infrastructure; and
- develop a network of bicycle commuters and other bicycle users in the CBD.

The CBD BUG is highly active in pursuing improvements in the broader range of end-of-trip facilities e.g. secure bicycle parking that should be provided by government and employers and building owners, managers and tenants, along with the cyclist-friendliness (or otherwise) of Brisbane's streets, paths, and spaces (with a particular focus on the CBD).

CBD BUG members meet monthly, discussing issues and happenings of concern and interest to CBD cyclists. Brisbane City Council staff regularly attend these meetings to exchange information. Guest speakers also are a routine feature of meetings, which have included representatives from both the public and private sector organisations with interests in infrastructure of interests to cyclists.

To date the CBD BUG had undertaken the following major activities:

- completed an extensive survey of city cyclists regarding cycling issues (see 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 and Brisbane City Council politicians on issues of major concern to commuter cyclists (improved commuter routes, reduced vehicle speeds, improved EOT facilities, the need for the commercial bicycle centre, improved bicycle provisions in City Plan etc);
- established a 'bike buddy' scheme for new/inexperienced cyclists, to encourage higher rates of commuting by bike;
- publicised, lobbied and opposed disruption, detours and closures of major cycling routes;
- drafted a number of comprehensive submissions, lodged after extensive discussion amongst BUG members, giving cyclists a direct voice in government planning and policy development.

Contact CBD BUG for the date of next month's meeting

TIME: 12.30 – 2.00pm last Wednesday of every month

All cyclists welcome – join CBD BUG and contribute to the development of Brisbane's cycling

If you are interested in joining, finding out more about the CBD BUG, being matched with a bike buddy or being put on our e-mailing list – email convenors@cbug.org.au or visit our website at <http://www.cbdbug.org.au>.