



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

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The Honourable Scott Emerson MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
GPO Box 2644
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

This letter seeks your commitment to continuing to convene the Public Transport Advisory Group (PTAG), initiated by your ministerial predecessor in April 2011.

The reason for this letter is that following the March 2012 Queensland State Election there is now uncertainty about the PTAG being continued.

As background for you to this request, the Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) is a grass roots volunteer organisation of more than 700 members, representing the interests of the very large number of Brisbane residents who ride bicycles to, from and within the Brisbane CBD. It is active in vigorously seeking policy decisions at all levels of government supporting 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. CBD BUG members meet monthly to exchange information and ideas, discuss issues of relevance and determine the direction of policies to benefit CBD cyclists.

During recent decades successive governments have failed SEQ residents in not recognising the central role public and active transport modes can play in alleviating the every-day, negative affects traffic congestion has on residents and businesses in terms of lost prosperity and reduced amenity.

On this basis it is clear to CBD BUG members there is an overwhelming need to change the way public transport decision making for SEQ occurs - by moving more towards a "bottom-up" approach for policy development. The need for such change is highlighted by the many public transport initiatives successfully applied in other Australian jurisdictions, but which Queensland Government agencies have rejected or simply failed to adopt.

The CBD BUG understands PTAG representatives have generated robust discussions at meetings about a wide range of public transport issues. This form of discussion is essential to bringing about the necessary changes enabling Translink to achieve its goal of making public transport the first choice for travel. Among the issues raised by PTAG representatives has been the appropriate integration of public transport and cycling in line with Translink's Strategic Priorities and Policies Policy, which states "More will be done to improve facilities that encourage access by bicycle".

The CBD BUG views the PTAG as an invaluable means through which community group representatives with a deep interest in improving SEQ's public transport network can regularly exchange information and ideas directly with you. As such, it can provide a dynamic alternative to the institutionalised thinking that inhibits innovation.

Accordingly it would be highly disappointing to CBD BUG members, and the broader community, for the PTAG to not be continued.

I look forward to your response in these issues.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul French', written in a cursive style.

Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG

24 July 2012

Cc: Mr Robert Dow, RAIL Back on Track