



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

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Ms Rachael Jacobs
The Greens Candidate for Central Ward
Via email to: central.ward@qld.greens.org.au

Dear Ms Jacobs

This letter seeks your views on the replacement of the former floating Riverwalk, which has received some media attention during the 2012 Brisbane City Council (BCC) election campaign.

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.

No doubt you are aware that before being destroyed during the 2011 floods the former floating Riverwalk was a vital component of Brisbane's Active Transport network infrastructure. Since this regrettable occurrence the residents of New Farm and surrounding suburbs have eagerly awaited the reinstatement of this link to the CBD. With this in mind the CBD BUG calls on you to pledge your support and commitment to the reinstatement of this vital piece of infrastructure as soon as is feasibly possible.

The New Farm-Teneriffe precinct is among the few suburbs in Brisbane to have a commuter mode share of trips by bike to the CBD exceeding 5%. This was principally attributable to the vital link that was the former floating walkway. According to Council just before the floods the corridor was carrying more than 3,000 pedestrian/cycling movements on a daily basis. Based on the performances of Brisbane's other major active transport infrastructure there can be little doubt this traffic level will quickly be equaled (if not exceeded) when the replacement structure is opened.

In August 2011 the CBD BUG announced the following four points as its key criteria for the replacement Riverwalk to meet.

1. Segregation of pedestrians and bike riders.
2. Designed for commuters.
3. Providing clear lines of sight.
4. Located above the King tide mark.

With Council's late-2011 release of its preferred option for the Riverwalk replacement being a fixed structure set out from the riverbank, the CBD BUG was pleased to note this option appears to meet these four key design goals.

Now the preferred BCC option has been selected the CBD BUG is calling for construction of the replacement as soon as is feasibly possible. While CBD BUG members understand there is a design and documentation period, the CBD BUG's position on this is that the current time allocated appears excessive, and the construction timetable needs to be brought forward.

Should you wish to discuss this matter directly, please do not hesitate to call me directly on 0423 974 825.

I look forward to your response on these issues.



Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG

20 April 2012