

Our ref: DG19838

23 MAY 2012

Mr Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group
GPO Box 2104
Brisbane Qld 4001

Dear Mr French

I refer to your letter to the former Director-General about temporary signage restricting cyclists from using the Downfall Creek overpass on Sandgate Road, Virginia.

As you may be aware, I have been appointed as the new Director-General for the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) following the state elections in March 2012.

I am advised that TMR officers have investigated your enquiry, and can also advise that TMR received a complaint from a cyclist in June 2011 expressing concerns for the safety of cyclists crossing the overpass.

In response, officers from TMR carried out a risk assessment. As an interim safety measure, a decision was made to restrict cyclists from crossing Downfall Creek via the overpass so that a further safety investigation and possible safety improvements could be put in place.

Signage was installed on the overpass on 10 February 2012, advising that cyclists were restricted from using the overpass while the investigation was being carried out.

I am pleased to advise that investigations are now complete, and due to the finding that the risk to cyclists is minimal, a decision was made on 16 March 2012 to lift the cycling restriction. TMR can confirm that the prohibition signage was removed on 23 March 2012.

With regards to your concerns about notification to cyclists prior to the restriction, TMR contacted key stakeholders by letter to inform them of the impending closure. The stakeholders included the Honourable Teresa Gambaro MP, Federal Member for Brisbane, the Honourable Neil Roberts, State Member for Nudgee, the Honourable Wayne Swan MP, Bicycle Queensland, Queensland Police, Brisbane City Council and Virginia State School. Two advertisements were also placed in *The Courier Mail*, informing the public of the restrictions.

Consultation with individual cycling groups was not undertaken prior to the closure as the closure was considered necessary for safety reasons. However, Bicycle Queensland was informed as the peak cycling body and appropriate contact point.

In regards to the alternative route chosen, this was selected by officers from TMR with consideration to cycling and pedestrian issues. The route, although not perfect, was assessed as being an acceptable alternative while further investigations were being carried out.

TMR thanks you for your interest and concerns. When engaging with the cycling community, all future information regarding any cycling issues will continue to be directed to Bicycle Queensland, who we expect to contact all relevant cycling interest groups directly.

If you have any further queries please contact Mr Mike Carter, Manager (Road Operations) on 3135 5507. Mr Carter will be pleased to assist.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Caltabiano', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael Caltabiano
BE (Hon) MPhil GDBA FIEAust FAICD RPEQ IAMA
Director-General
Department of Transport and Main Roads