



OFFICE OF THE
LORD MAYOR
Brisbane

Office
City Hall
King George Square
Brisbane Qld 4000 Australia
Tel 07 3403 4400
Fax 07 3403 9930
LORDMAYOR@brisbane.qld.gov.au
Postal
GPO Box 2287
Brisbane Qld 4001 Australia

14 May 2014

Dr Richard Bean
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD Bicycle User Group
GPO Box 2104
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Dr Bean

Thank you for your email of 11 April 2014 about Brisbane's bikeways network. I certainly appreciate the time you have taken to research and document your concerns.

I was pleased to hear Mr Andrew Macbeth, Council's Bikeway Program Manager, spoke with you about these matters on 29 April. Council remains committed to developing a comprehensive bikeway network and I can assure you that we will continue to explore ways to enhance the network and Council's systems for measuring its distance.

I am advised that Council has used a variety of statistics in recent years to document the length of the network. As you note, the network length is mostly quoted in recent publications as being approximately 1100km. Council uses the resources of our asset management database to record our bikeway network and has been using this method of calculation for approximately 15 years. I acknowledge that this method may, at times, be less than ideal as it can result in double-counting when treatments or facilities occur on both sides of the road. However, it is a genuine attempt to provide cyclists and the broader community with a snapshot of our bikeway network and aims to reflect Council's significant investment in cycling infrastructure. I can assure you that your feedback will be taken into consideration as we continue to explore possible alternatives to our current network measurement methods.

Council has a diverse range of bicycle facilities, including bicycle lanes, bicycle pathways and shared paths. We also have a number of 'treatments' going back many years, such as bicycle routes, which are marked by blue route marker signs on poles alongside the road, and bicycle awareness zones (BAZ). All of these facilities and treatment types are included in our overall bikeway network measurements.

As you also note, the way Council measures the bikeway network differs from the way our road network is measured. It is also potentially different to the way in which other jurisdictions may measure their networks.

.../2

Most cities have bikeway networks that comprise a mix of treatments and facilities and there is no standard definition as to how bicycle networks should be measured or reported, particularly in relation to double-counting some treatments or facilities and not others. Council is looking at various benchmarking systems to enhance our measuring and reporting system and your feedback will be useful in this regard.

It is important to note that some bicycle treatments and facilities were built many years ago and no longer meet current standards or guidelines. Council is progressively upgrading these facilities and providing new facilities to encourage more people to take up active and healthy transport alternatives. Our \$120 million Better Bikeways 4 Brisbane represents a significant investment in cycling infrastructure and is one of the most extensive programs of its kind in local government in Australia.

I acknowledge your suggestion to split the reporting of commuter and recreational cycling usage on Brisbane's bikeways. This may also yield useful data for Council in our efforts to encourage more people to take up cycling. You may be interested to know that cycle traffic in Brisbane is growing at nearly 8% per annum, which suggests our efforts to date to support cycling are having the desired effect.

Brisbane is fortunate to have an extensive creek and river system, on which shared-use paths for people walking and cycling have been built progressively. These paths offer the opportunity for extensive off-road travel, free of motor vehicle traffic and in an attractive environment. The bikeways have been built to allow cyclists to cross many major roads below road level, improving journey times for cycling. As some of these creeks and rivers can occasionally flood, they have not been developed for housing and are available for bikeways. However, the disadvantage of these facilities not being available during occasional floods is far outweighed by the advantages of the facilities being available, and of great value for cycling, for the vast majority of the time.

It is important to note that preparing data for release as 'open data' needs to be done with care to ensure accuracy and consistency from one year to another. Mr Macbeth has advised that, when Council next reviews our bikeway network measurements, information outlining the lengths of different components of the network will be made available through 'Digital Brisbane'. Unfortunately, I am unable to provide you with a precise timeframe in relation to this data, however, I have asked Mr Macbeth to contact CBD BUG and other interested stakeholders when this information is available.

With regard to your comments about cycling safety near the Mater Hospital in South Brisbane, I can advise that recent traffic signal operation improvements have been made at the intersection of Vulture and Stanley Streets to enhance safety at this location. Council's Congestion Reduction Unit will continue to monitor the operation of this intersection and carry out further modifications, where needed.

I can also advise that, due to the high volume of pedestrians and cyclists crossing Vulture Street, two signalised crossings have been provided to separate pedestrians and cyclists. As well, Council's Transport Planning and Strategy branch (TPS) has arranged for the kerb ramp on Vulture Street to be extended by two metres, to enhance access between the new signalised crossing on Vulture Street and the cycle path which runs alongside The Arbour.

I understand Council's Field Services Group has scheduled this project to coincide with similar work being undertaken in the area and it is expected to be completed by the end of June. Should you wish to discuss these works in more detail, please contact Mr Nicholas Debritz from TPS on 3403 8888.

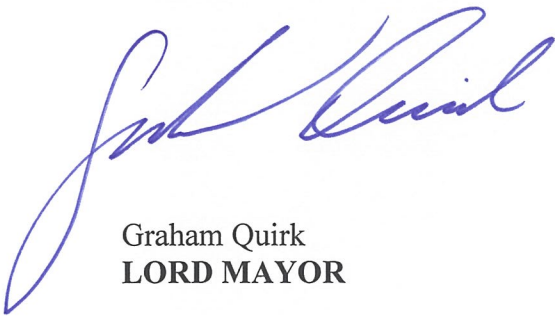
I can advise that planning work has been undertaken this year on enhancements to cycling facilities on Brisbane's northside, including the Northern Cycleway. Unfortunately, I am unable to provide you with a precise timeframe for any proposed works, as they are a joint undertaking between Council and the Queensland Government's Department of Transport and Main Roads. These works will need to be considered in a future budget and in line with other citywide projects of this nature.

I appreciate your positive feedback about the Bicentennial bikeway and note your comments about connectivity with Sylvan Road. I can advise that, approximately two years ago, Council considered this issue and determined that the current layout provides the best balance in being able to meet the needs of cyclists, and the on-street parking needs of residents and visitors to the area. As such, it is not proposed to make any changes at this time.

I trust this information is helpful and explains Council's position. Should you wish to discuss cycling issues in more detail, please contact Mr Macbeth, who is also available on the above number.

Again, thank you for contacting me and for your continued advocacy on behalf of the cycling community.

Yours sincerely



Graham Quirk
LORD MAYOR

Ref: LM02400-2104