



Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports
Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply

Our ref: MC85797

10 MAY 2016

Dr Richard Bean
Co-convenor
Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group
GPO BOX 2104
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Richard,

Dear Dr Bean

Thank you for your letter of 17 February 2016 about concerns for cycle users at the intersection of Herschel Street and North Quay, Brisbane City.

The Palaszczuk Government has made a significant commitment to cycling and will invest \$163 million over the next four years to implement the highest priority connections on principal cycle networks across Queensland. The Palaszczuk Government has also recently committed \$10 million to improve cyclist and pedestrian safety through addressing known and potential accident locations. Improving the fine detail of existing cycling networks, particularly in high-use areas like Herschel Street at North Quay, can make a significant difference to the safety and enjoyment of people who currently ride. I therefore appreciate you bringing issues of this nature to my attention.

I can advise that the positioning of the pedestrian signal pole on the western corner of Herschel Street at North Quay is constrained by a number of factors. The signal pole must be in a location that is suitable for pedestrians, wheelchair users and cyclists to access when using the crossing. I understand your concerns regarding the inconvenience of slowing and/or dismounting in order to use this crossing. This must be balanced against the needs of wheelchair users to safely access the crossing. My department, on balance, has no plans to alter the existing arrangement in regards to the signal pole.

Departmental staff have advised that a full relocation of the fence is not feasible. The fence is a safety feature to prevent users from falling down the steep bank, and cannot be moved further back without widening the path. I am further advised that the large tree adjacent to the path is a significant constraint and unable to be removed. However, there may be some scope to increase the manoeuvring space near the tree via a minor widening of the path at the corner only. Departmental officers will investigate this option and, if feasible, the works would be undertaken within the next six months.

In regards to your comments about my department or Brisbane City Council (BCC) being required to upgrade the crossing, please note that the Cycle Network Local Government Grants Program (CNLGGP) technical guidelines are intended to apply to the design and implementation of new infrastructure, not retrospectively to existing infrastructure.

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Furthermore, the current legislation was amended to allow cyclists to ride across intersections in order to make cycling more convenient. However, it would have been unreasonable to upgrade all constrained crossings in Queensland to current standards when the legislation was amended. There will always be situations where road users need to exercise their judgement and walk, ride or drive to the conditions, especially in constrained urban environments.

I appreciate you bringing this matter to my attention and understand your frustration that this otherwise convenient route is made less so by the constraints at this crossing. Thank you for your suggestions, and I trust that, if approved, the minor localised path widening at the corner will go some way to assisting with this issue in the short term.

While I am able to provide technical advice about the constraints of the crossing, the crossing itself is within the jurisdiction of BCC, and the planning and delivery of any potential improvements would be the responsibility of BCC. My department will investigate further options for improving this particular crossing, in collaboration with BCC. Prospective improvements at this location may be eligible for CNLGGP, which assists councils by providing 50 per cent funding towards design and/or construction of cycling infrastructure. You may wish to encourage BCC to apply to CNLGGP for a grant to assist with designing and/or constructing improvements at this location.

I note that you have contacted the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Councillor Graham Quirk regarding this issue. You may also wish to contact Councillor Adrian Schrinner, Chairman of the BCC Public and Active Transport Committee, by email at chandler.ward@bcc.qld.gov.au, or Councillor Vicki Howard, Councillor for Central Ward, at central.ward@bcc.qld.gov.au, as the crossing is within Central Ward. All funding allocations by BCC and CNLGGP are subject to competing priorities.

In regard to your concerns about the groove between the boards and the asphalt in the vicinity, I note that this also falls within the jurisdiction of BCC. I trust that the Lord Mayor will respond to you on this issue.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Mark Bailey', with a stylized, flowing script.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and
Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply