



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

GPO Box 2104, Brisbane 4001

brisbanecbdbug@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/cbdbug/

<https://twitter.com/cbdbug>

Office of the Information Commissioner
PO Box 10143
Adelaide Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Via email to: administration@oic.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam

Application for non-profit organisation financial hardship status under the *Right to Information Act 2009* (Qld)

This is an application for the Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) to be granted financial hardship status under the *Right to Information Act 2009* (Qld) (RTI Act).

The CBD BUG's financial and other circumstances remain unchanged since our organisation's previous application for financial hardship status, which was determined on 17 June 2019 (Your ref: 220104). However, the following details are provided to support this application.

CBD BUG background information

The CBD BUG is a non-profit organisation of city cyclists, representing and articulating the interests of the very large number of Brisbane residents who commute or ride bicycles to, from and within Brisbane's city centre. Our group has over 800 members, and potentially advocates on behalf of the several thousand regular people who cycle to the CBD each day.

The CBD BUG was established in early 2005 to:

- monitor and identify CBD cycling facilities (and deficiencies);
- act as a resource for CBD commuter cyclists;
- lobby for improvements; and
- act as a network of cycle commuters and other bike users in the CBD.

As part of its approach of fostering direct member involvement in decision making and in accordance with its constitution, CBD BUG General Meetings were convened for members in-face on the following dates in the Brisbane City Council's Central Library community meeting facilities, which are provided to the CBD BUG free of charge.

26 June 2019
28 August 2019
30 October 2019
18 December 2019
26 February 2020

31 July 2019
25 September 2019
27 November 2019
29 January 2020

When the COVID-19 restrictions commenced these meetings were initially paused. However, our monthly meetings were successfully re-commenced via Zoom from 24 June 2020, an approach we plan to continue on a month-by-month basis until we can return to holding in-face meetings.

The CBD BUG's constitution is the same as that provided in support of its original application for RTI hardship status, a copy of which is provided at Attachment 1.

CBD BUG financial situation

The CBD BUG's finances continue to be as limited as they were when we lodged our first application for financial hardship status in November 2011.

Apart from our dedicated volunteers' skills and knowledge, the CBD BUG's assets are limited to the following:

1. one Credit Union Australia (CUA) account no 30834141 – current balance \$285.74 (a copy of the most recent six-monthly statement for this account covering the period 22 July 2019 to 21 January 2020 is provided at Attachment 2).
2. Gmail account (brisbanecbdbug@gmail.com)
3. Facebook account (<https://www.facebook.com/cbdbug>), and
4. Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/cbdbug>).

CUA previously paid us a couple of cents interest each year. But following this account's conversion to "no fees" status during 2019 we no longer receive even that meagre income.

The CBD BUG continues to own no physical assets and in limiting its activities purely to advocacy, does not require public liability or other insurance. No membership fees are charged.

One of our founding members holds a GPO post office box for their personal use, but since our inception has allowed us to use that box as our mailing address.

The CBD BUG remains unincorporated, and does not have a Tax File Number or Australian Business Number. Accordingly, the organisation does not prepare financial statements, tax returns or Business Activity Statements.

Members of the CBD BUG's executive continue to meet our organisation's operating costs, such as postage, printing and website hosting, from their personal resources.

This information clearly demonstrates the continuing non-profit nature of the Brisbane CBD BUG and its strictly limited finances.

Providing a service in the public interest

There are a numerous, clear, evidenced based benefits to individuals, the broader community and governments of all levels through increasing the proportion of people who leave their cars at home and cycle instead. The current COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the many advantages of bicycle riding - with the surge in cycling levels reflecting how many people needing to continue commuting have cycled to avoid travelling by public transport.

The CBD BUG continues to function as a highly active cyclist advocacy group in Brisbane. During the last 12 months it has identified and taken up many issues with the Queensland Government, Brisbane City Council and private entities e.g. Cross River Rail, Howard Smith Wharves that negatively impact on cyclists and hold back cycling's growth.

In addition to these direct advocacy efforts, the CBD BUG regularly has guest speakers attending its monthly meetings in order to provide information for its members on projects / initiatives / events and other matters of importance to local cyclists.

Primarily on the basis of awareness of its activities spreading via word of mouth and social media the CBD BUG has more than 800 members, a clear and unambiguous endorsement from the community of its activities.

Responsible use of the right to access documents under RTI legislation

The CBD BUG leadership group is acutely aware of the potential additional workload for public servants and costs to agencies arising from RTI applications. Accordingly, CBD BUG RTI applications have been lodged judiciously, and only in relation to issues directly relevant to the organisation's advocacy on behalf of cyclists.

Within this context we lodged only one (1) RTI application during our previous 12 month hardship status period. In response to this application on 5 August 2019 Brisbane City Council provided detailed information of its bikeway projects and expenditure completed since 1 July 2016. (BCC ref RTI/IP Appl 2019/20-2)

If clarification on any issue is required in relation to this application please do not hesitate to contact me directly by calling 0423 974 825 or via email to brisbanecbdbug@gmail.com.

We appreciate your consideration of this application and look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully



Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG
17 July 2020