



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

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Ms Terri Butler MP
Member for Griffith
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Via email: Terri.Butler.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Butler

I write to you in your capacity as the Federal Member for Griffith regarding Brisbane City Council's "Green Bridges Program" and the need for Federal funding to support this programme so it delivers the new active transport infrastructure much needed by Brisbane residents.

As you would be aware, the CBD BUG is a strong supporter of Lord Mayor Schinner's "Green Bridges Program" for Brisbane. Since the program's announcement, the program has evolved with the western suburbs bridge being removed from the program due to local community opposition. In lieu of the western suburbs the Brisbane City Council is investigating alternative locations for the 5th bridge in the program, with a bridge linking New Farm/Teneriffe to Hawthorne/Bulimba suggested as the alternative to the program's western suburbs bridge.

Public records indicate a bridge crossing the Bulimba reach of the Brisbane River has been talked about since as early as 1885. The CBD BUG and other active transport groups/advocates have been vocal in supporting a bridge at this location for its ability to move thousands of people every day and reduce motor traffic movements between congested eastern and northern suburbs roads while also avoiding costly and economically irresponsible road widening projects. Indeed, a recent petition before Brisbane City Council indicated that Council was considering this location and also seeking a Queensland Transport study that they have now received.

Brisbane City Council is seeking funding support from other levels of government to complete the program (refer Figures 1 & 2). As a local Federal opposition member the CBD BUG seeks your public support for:

- 1) the construction of a "Green Bridge" crossing the Bulimba Reach of the Brisbane River, and
- 2) funding from the Federal Government for this project.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Donald Campbell
New Farm Coordinator
Brisbane CBD BUG
16th May 2021

Cc:

Cr Ryan Murphy Public and Active Transport Chair
Cr Vicki Howard Councillor of Central Ward
Cr Kara Cook Councillor for Morningside Ward
Grace Grace MP Member for McConnel
Di Farmer MP Member for Bulimba
Trevor Evans MP Member for Brisbane
Space for Cycling Brisbane
Bicycle Queensland
Queensland Walks

Construction on two green bridges linking Brisbane's inner-city suburbs is slated to begin this year, but the location of three other planned bridges remains unclear.

In 2019, Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner made a \$550 million pledge to build five new green bridges, catering for pedestrians and cyclists, to reduce vehicle traffic and improve the city's connectivity.

At Tuesday's public and active transport committee meeting, Brisbane City councillors were given an update on the progress of the green bridges program.

Public and active transport committee chairman Ryan Murphy told the committee the council wanted state or federal funding support alongside the \$550 million already committed.

Key points:

- Brisbane City Council pledged \$550 million for five green bridges in 2019
- Two bridges begin construction this year and two others are out for consultation
- A planned bridge at Bellbowrie has been scrapped

"I think everyone can agree this program has come a long way from when it was announced in March [2019]," Cr Murphy said.

The \$190 million Kangaroo Point green bridge will be 470 metres long and 6.8 metres wide, with separated cycling and pedestrian lanes, linking the inner-city suburb with the City Botanic Gardens.

Figure 1 - ABC article published 24 February 2021

"Our city has sustained a brutal economic hit this year, but my administration is determined that we build for the future. This means we get people into work now and critical infrastructure projects like these bridges are how we do that," he said.

"Kicking off this procurement process quickly is also about breathing life into the local construction industry and expanding supplier opportunities for struggling businesses."

The lord mayor said discussions were continuing with the state and federal governments over additional funding for the the LNP administration's bridges program, hampered by the delays in releasing government budgets due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Geotechnical work on the Kangaroo Point bridge location is under way and the council says both bridges will support about 500 jobs during construction.

But council opposition leader Jared Cassidy said the budget announced for the two bridges was a "cost blowout".

Figure 2 - Brisbane Times article published 18 August 2020