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## Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

### CBD BUG

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The Right Honourable Cr Adrian Schrinner  
Lord Mayor of Brisbane  
GPO Box 2287  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Via email to: [lord.mayor@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto:lord.mayor@brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Dear Lord Mayor

This letter seeks your action on Council improving its approach to temporary footpath closures it implements for its own projects.

Over recent months the Brisbane CBD BUG has written to you several times calling for changes to the unsatisfactory way BCC allows private sector builders / property developers to close footpaths for their convenience and profit.

These closures are to the detriment of footpath users for a range of reasons – through the lack of prior notice of footpath closures, their prolonged duration (often for many months) and the absence of safe and direct detours for footpath users.

Sadly, Council itself is currently subjecting footpath users to sub-standard and unacceptable treatment due to its temporary closure of the footpath for the repair works to the Bowen Terrace suspended walkway in New Farm.

Council's neglect of footpath users for these repair works is obvious and simply unacceptable.

Despite the full width closure of this footpath there has been a limited presence of stop-go traffic controllers at this location to enable footpath users to directly bypass Council's work site via taking to the road. The CBD BUG members who regularly use this footpath report that this traffic controller presence has been sporadic at best, with no presence on week-ends or even during the peak travel period when there are many people travelling along this footpath.

Council has also indicated that to bypass this closure of some 30 metres of footpath people should instead take the absurd detour of almost 400 metres via Malt Street, Brunswick Street and Harcourt Street. This poor effort enabled Council to limit its provision of a detour for footpath users to installing just a handful of directional corflutes held up by cable ties.

When the CBD BUG telephoned Council about this inadequate approach, we were incredulous when the project team indicated they viewed this as a "short" detour. Additionally, despite the hundreds of people using this footpath daily the project team stated that as on-road parking in this region is "scarce" – they were not prepared to remove the parking for approximately six vehicles on the other side of Bowen Terrace that would have created the space to provide a safe and direct bypass via installation of some water filled barriers. Council could have also improved safety here by designating a temporary 10km/h Shared Zone.

The CBD BUG's observations of footpath user behaviour at this site are that, of course, hardly anyone appears to be using Council's ludicrous detour. Instead, people are simply taking to the road and having to share this space with passing motor vehicles. As Bowen Terrace is a one way street this means scooter and bicycle riders are travelling the against Bowen Terrace's one way traffic. Given the volume of traffic along this busy footpath it's difficult to believe no BCC staff at this site have noticed this outcome, which of course suggests Council is trying to turn a blind eye to the mess they have created.

Instead of what seems to contempt towards people walking, scootering and/or cycling along the Bowen Terrace footpath BCC could have easily and at low cost provided a direct bypass of these works. We question why Council does not adopt best practice in relation to how it temporarily closes footpaths for its projects - to avoid risk and inconvenience for the community, minimise BCC's reputational risk and to also provide a good example for the private sector and other local government authorities.

The community expects and deserves better from its council.

Yours faithfully



Paul French  
Co-convenor  
Brisbane CBD BUG  
28 August 2022

Cc: Bicycle Queensland  
Brisbane North BUG  
Cr Jared Cassidy - Leader of the Opposition in Council  
Cr Vicki Howard, Councillor for Central Ward  
Cr Nicole Johnston - Tennyson Ward  
Queensland Walks  
Space4Cycling Brisbane  
Cr Jonathan Sriranganathan - The Gabba Ward