

# Cr Ryan Murphy

Civic Cabinet Chair for Transport



Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner

13 September 2022

Mr Paul French  
Co-convenor  
Brisbane CBD BUG  
brisbanecbdebug@gmail.com

  
Dear Mr French

Thank you for your email of 7 August 2022 about the North Brisbane Bikeway Stage 5 and the two West End green bridge projects. The Lord Mayor referred your enquiry to me as Civic Cabinet Chair for Transport to provide a response.

As you are aware, following Brisbane's devastating floods in February 2022, Council has been busy working with the local community to identify, plan and commence work to repair the widespread damage across Brisbane and provide support to those who need it most.

Council's damage bill from the February flood will be up to \$330 million, which is three times more than the cost of the 2011 flood. In addition, the extreme rain event along with COVID-19 relief measures have contributed towards more than \$100 million in additional Council expenses and a \$100 million decline in revenue.

As a result, Council has made the decision to redirect funding and resources to prioritise the rebuilding of roads, bridges, bikeways, parks and sports facilities across Brisbane, helping to ensure flood rebuilding efforts do not take ten years or more to complete. Council expects the flood recovery effort to take approximately two years to complete across the city.

I acknowledge the Brisbane CBD BUG members' disappointment with the cancellation of the North Brisbane Bikeway: Price Street to Kedron Brook project until flood recovery works are complete. While I note your requests for missing bikeway connections to be completed, I must confirm that Council's decision to redirect funding and resources to prioritise flood recover works remains unchanged. This includes the design and construction of separated cycle facilities along Dickson Street between Price Street and Junction Road.

Please be assured that Council carefully considered this decision as well as the feedback received during the consultation period. While the project will not be proceeding at this time, we are committed to working with the Queensland Government's Department of Transport and Main Roads on the broader North Brisbane Bikeway network and future active transport connections in this area.

As you can appreciate, many key links in the active transport network can be challenging to deliver due to site constraints and available budget, with some projects requiring a staged approach and feasibility investigations to determine affordable and deliverable results. While this network grows, there will be some locations where connections are not as ideal as we would like, however, I can assure you Council is working hard to enhance pedestrian and cycle facilities on a city-wide basis.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Alex Milligan, A/Public and Active Transport Planning Manager, on 3178 5237.

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Your feedback in relation to the Green Bridges Program has been noted. I appreciate your interest in these projects and acknowledge your desire for the West End Green Bridges to be progressed as a priority.

Council is committed to continuing to work closely with the Queensland and Australian Governments, and other important stakeholders, to fully realise the benefits of the Toowong to West End and St Lucia to West End Green Bridges.

During the flood recovery effort, Council will continue to seek additional funding from both governments to progress the delivery of the West End Green Bridges and other Council projects currently on hold. If funding is secured within this time, Council will consider progressing the Toowong to West End and St Lucia to West End Green Bridges sooner than anticipated.

I can assure you Council remains on track to meet its commitment of investing up to \$550 million to progress the Green Bridges Program over a 10-year period since the 2020-21 Budget, with construction of both the Kangaroo Point and Breakfast Creek Green Bridges now underway and expected to be complete by 2024.

With regard to the Breakfast Creek Green Bridge, I can advise the Preliminary Business Case for the project outlines that, amongst other benefits, this bridge will:

- provide an enhanced connection at a strategic active transport junction point for the northern part of the inner city
- reinforce an active transport desire line connecting directly into the river's edge active transport networks (Primary Cycle Routes and Riverwalk Infrastructure), including the Lores Bonney Riverwalk and the Mariners Reach Riverwalk, extending the inner city active transport network and catchments
- provide the opportunity to support future public realm enhancements including upgraded pathways, wayfinding and signage.

The Breakfast Creek Green Bridge is forecast to carry 1146 trips per day after opening in early 2024, with around 65% of these trips forecast to be cycling. This forecast is based on general population growth, increased road congestion, a shift to cycling as an active mode of transport, and a corresponding reduction of approximately 60 to 100 car trips per day on the network.

The new green bridge will provide dedicated pathways for pedestrians and cyclists on the bridge deck and approach pathways, with a minimum width of six metres, improving safety for local active transport users.

Our new green bridges are a vital part of Council's plan to create world-class green transport infrastructure that will help residents navigate the city easily and will leave a lasting legacy as we set our sights on the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

If you have any further questions regarding the Green Bridges Program, please contact the project team on 1800 318 166 during business hours or by email at [greenbridges@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto:greenbridges@brisbane.qld.gov.au). For information outside of business hours, please call Council's 24-hour Contact Centre on 3403 8888.

Thank you for contacting the Lord Mayor.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Ryan Murphy  
**CIVIC CABINET CHAIR FOR TRANSPORT**