



OFFICE OF THE
LORD MAYOR
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20 September 2022

Mr Paul French
Co-Convenor
Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG)
GPO Box 2104
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr French

Thank you for your email of 7 July 2022 about a footpath closure at 21 Lamington Avenue, Lutwyche, and email of 28 August about the temporary closure of a pedestrian footpath at Bowen Terrace, New Farm. The Lord Mayor is currently away from the office and has asked that I reply on this occasion.

I can you that every development application, road closure application and footpath closure application received by Council is subject to a high level of scrutiny on all aspects of the proposal, including potential impacts on road and footpath users. Council's Construction Management Guidelines try to minimise footpath closures where possible (especially within the CBD and surrounding areas), which may include installing hoarding and gantry to maintain access.

Council aims to strike a balance between allowing a development to be constructed while also providing a safe avenue for pedestrians and all road users to travel. Due to safety issues, such as basement construction works at 21 Lamington Avenue, it may be necessary to close the verge until the construction is back to ground level.

Currently, Council does not require community consultation for footpath closure permits or require developers to provide notice prior of footpath closures, due to their temporary nature. If a closure cannot be avoided, a satisfactory alternative path/route needs to be provided (clearly signed) and the closure is only for the shortest practical period. Furthermore, access to other properties (driveways and pedestrian access) is to be maintained. If that is not possible, the developer is required to negotiate an acceptable solution with those properties prior to Council providing the closure permit.

I can advise that Council's development application portal, Development.i, complies with legislative requirements under the current *Planning Act 2016* for development approvals. However, as footpath closures are granted under Council's local law, these permits are not included on Development.i.

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I can also advise that any detour and signage is to be prepared by a suitably qualified traffic consultant to ensure pedestrians can move safely around any closed footpath. The safe movement of all road users and maintenance of these diversions/detours are inspected whenever Council officers are onsite.

As you may be aware, Council's Building and Construction Management Team (BCMT) proactively monitor major construction sites to ensure the conditions of the development approval or other permits are met and maintained. I am pleased to advise that officers from BMCT attended 21 Lamington Avenue on 16 September and were able to confirm the site's signage was in accordance with the footway permit. Should you require more information, please contact Mr James Mokrzecki, Engineering Compliance Team Manager, Development Services, on 3178 7690.

In relation to the temporary closure of the footpath at Bowen Terrace, I understand Ms Rochelle Spenceley, Project Communications Officer from City Standards, contacted you on 7 September. As she explained, following an onsite safety review, the temporary closure of the footpath and detour was required to allow for essential concrete works to be completed as quickly and safely as possible. The safety of both pedestrians and the construction staff remained a top priority during the repair works to the suspended walkway. I also understand that during this work, lift access was available on either side of the worksite for pedestrians, as well as a signposted detour. All of the equipment was removed and footpath access was reinstated on 2 September in time for the Riverfire event the following day.

Thank you for raising your concerns and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Krista Adams
ACTING LORD MAYOR

Ref: LM03275-2022