



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

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Brisbane City Council
Urban Renewal Brisbane (Inner Spark)
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Via email to: urban.renewal@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam

Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) submission for Brisbane City Council's "Inner Spark" consultation

This submission provides the Brisbane CBD BUG's views in response to Council's "Inner Spark" consultation process.

As a key approach contributing to the success of the 2032 Brisbane Olympics and Paralympics the Brisbane CBD BUG proposes Council transforms the inner city via a *Streets Alive* initiative.

This initiative involves converting roads and streets that are typically dominated by fast moving streams of motor vehicles into activated public spaces that are friendly and fun places for people to firstly reach by walking, cycling and scootering, and then linger and enjoy entertainment, food, shopping and other experiences.

The *Streets Alive* initiative can be delivered via the three following strategies:

1. installing a network of segregated bicycle lanes and widening footpaths
2. building out selected streets as pedestrian malls (with permeability for people travelling on bicycles and scooter, and
3. closing the CBD to motor vehicles during weekend business hours for the Cyclovia concept.

Cyclovias are an increasingly applied approach in many localities around the world, including Australia, that involves the temporary closing of streets to motor vehicles for what is effectively a festival that allows people to move about via walking, cycling skating, scooters etc.

The need for this reformation of the inner city stems from large retail complexes, such as those owned by the Scentre Group (formerly Westfield Group), having previously drawn people away from the inner city though providing a village experience.

In contrast, much of the inner city's public space is unusable by people because it is unpleasant and unsafe place due to the noise, dirt and danger caused by motor vehicles.

Via the Streets Alive initiative these spaces can allow alternative and much more enjoyable community uses such as live music and other entertainment, food vans, street markets, and games such as large chess / checkers sets, outdoor table tennis tables, bocce etc.

The *Streets Alive* initiative aligns perfectly with all seven of the Big Idea themes in the following ways.

Welcoming

Brisbane's current car-focused transport system is simultaneously financially costly for families and individuals while also making the street environment hostile for people. In contrast, travelling via active transport is much cheaper and therefore more inclusive and equitable. Additionally, when riding a bike or walking you see more and are more engaged with your surroundings compared to the being isolated from your surroundings travelling in a car.

The replacement of car-filled streets with people enjoying food and entertainment would be a major step towards to improving Brisbane's attractiveness for residents and visitors.

Connected

The *Streets Alive* initiative specifically targets improving the cycle network as well as delivering more inner city space for people walking, skating, scootering etc.

Animated

Reallocating road space for the Streets Alive initiative will provide more opportunities for staging events. In turn this will make Brisbane a more attractive destination for interstate and overseas visitors.

Beautiful

Streets filled with people enjoying a walk or a bicycle ride, taking in a show or socially interacting with others are enriching places filled with energy and fun. This activation of inner city streets will make Brisbane a more beautiful place to live and visit and make better use of the available space.

Future Focused

By delivering better active travel options this will enable successful Olympic and Paralympic Games through reducing the traffic congestion. Visitors who are easily able to move around between their accommodation, the sporting venues and other local attractions will be left with a lasting positive impression of this city.

Reducing dependency on transport based on the non-renewable fossil fuels will provide a brighter a more secure future for residents and visitors through reducing carbon emissions and making everyone healthier through the additional exercise.

Green

Walking, cycling and scootering are all well known as clean, green and sustainable transport modes. Reducing car-based transport would also significantly contribute to Brisbane's clean and green credentials on the world stage.

Resilient

During recent Brisbane flood events the utility of bicycle riding was demonstrated through the number of people who chose cycling to visit the inner city and other flood zones. Human-powered travel such as walking and cycling do not require electricity or fossil fuels and are not subject to the vagaries of international markets or other potential

Energising streetscapes makes better use of the outdoor environment would be less subject to the restrictions imposed in response to pandemic conditions.

We thank Council for the opportunity to help shape the future of the Brisbane inner city.

Yours sincerely



Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG
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