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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

I write to you on behalf of Brisbane CBD BUG members, following the tragic and avoidable death of Philip Pawsey, who was killed in a crash with a truck while riding his bicycle southbound along Nudge Road in Hendra on the morning of Tuesday 8 May 2023.

As you would be aware, many people cycle along Nudgee Road due to the lack of alternative routes to key destinations, and this corridor's flat topography. However, because of Nudgee Road's cyclist-hostile conditions this route has an extensive history of serious crashes between bicycle riders and motorists.

Our analysis of the Queensland Road Traffic Crash dataset spanning crashes from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2021 shows that along Nudgee Road there has been 11 multi-vehicle crashes involving bicycle riders, with the severity of these crashes being:

- 1 fatality
- 2 required medical treatment
- 4 resulted in people with a minor injury, and another
- 4 saw people hospitalised.

Given it's typically the bicycle rider who comes off worst in a crash with a motorist we think it's safe to assume these were the results for the bicycle riders involved in these crashes.

Additionally, as this data represents only the crashes reported to Queensland Police, it is highly likely have been other less serious crashes along Nudgee Road that do not appear in these figures.

Apart from the obvious impact on the individual bicycle rider the cost to the community of each of these crashes is substantial. These costs are influenced by their severity - and can range between \$44,774 and \$414,946.

We have already written to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, the Honourable Mark Bailey MP, to once again call for, amongst a range of changes, his action on the long overdue truck safety reforms recommended in the December 2015 Queensland Coroner's report into Rebekka Meyer's death at Woolloongabba.

However, Brisbane City Council (BCC) has allowed the dangers along Nudgee Road to continue despite many calls for safety improvements from individuals and bicycle rider advocacy groups. The most recent of these we are aware of was the petition to BCC that closed on Monday 24 January 2022 titled "*Make Nudgee road more bike friendly*". (<https://www.epetitions.brisbane.qld.gov.au/petition/view/pid/1100>)

Given the aforementioned volume of prior, serious crashes along this corridor and previous petitions and other calls for BCC's action there - it is clear Council has a long-standing knowledge of the dangerous conditions along Nudgee Road for people riding bicycles. Therefore, it is indefensible and quite shocking BCC now wants to delay acting on Nudgee Road's patently unsafe state while awaiting the outcomes of the coroner's inquiry into Philip Pawsey's fatal crash, when such an inquiry is not even likely to occur.

We noted with great interest Councillor Murphy's comments on Philip Pawsey's crash (reported by the Courier Mail on 13 May 2023) that "Council is fully cooperating and will review any recommendations that come as a result of this investigation". We would like BCC to share with the CBD BUG the extent of its cooperation on this and previous inquiries and the outcomes of those investigations into the 32 cyclists killed on BCC roads between 2001 and 2021 (10 of which involved a truck).

Another northern suburb hotspot for serious crashes between bicycle riders and motorists is Hudson Road, Albion, with the abovementioned dataset indicating five crashes have occurred there, including a cyclist killed by a truck near the Albion Overpass in August 2018. It's also now almost three years since bicycle rider Carolyn Lister was killed by a truck in Bowen Hills but nothing has happened to address the dangerous conditions at the intersection of Bowen Bridge Road and O'Connell Terrace.

So we would also welcome your advice on what you have done to make cycling around trucks safer since you came to office?

More broadly though, we hold grave concerns about the dangers to vulnerable road users from the large trucks and trailers that can be expected to flood Brisbane's roads and streets for the project works for the 2032 Olympics. Accordingly, we would like to know how are you going to ameliorate these additional risks to all vulnerable road users?

In closing, we have noted BCC aims to protect safety and promotes health by .... "striving for zero harm (mentally and physically), to everyone in the workplace, at home, or in public spaces through our 'Zero Harm' policy". (<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/about-council/working-at-council/benefits-of-working-at-council>)

We would very much like to see BCC act on this commitment by making our city's roads safe for everyone - and not just drivers.

Yours sincerely



Paul French  
Co-convenor  
Brisbane CBD BUG  
14 June 2023

Cc: Airport BUG  
Bicycle Queensland  
Brisbane North BUG  
Brisbane West BUG  
EaST BUG  
Queensland Walks  
Space4Cycling Brisbane  
Cr Jared Cassidy, Leader of the Opposition in Council  
Cr Trina Massey, The Gabba Ward  
Cr Nicole Johnstone, Tennyson Ward