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## Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group – CBD BUG

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The Honourable Campbell Newman  
Lord Mayor  
Brisbane City Council  
GPO Box 2287  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Lord Mayor,

### **Hale St. Bridge and Cyclists/Pedestrian access**

As you may be aware, the CBD BUG is an organisation of city cyclists, representing and articulating the interests of the very large number of Brisbane residents who commute or ride bicycles to, from and within the Central Business District. The group has almost 200 members, and potentially represents several thousand regular cyclists. CBD BUG was established to:

- monitor CBD cycling facilities;
- act as a resource for CBD commuter cyclists;
- lobby for improvements; and
- act as an informal network of cycle commuters and other cycle users in the CBD.

The CBD BUG meets regularly to discuss issues of concern and interest to CBD cyclists, including parking facilities, 'end-of-journey' facilities and the cycling routes to and from the CBD from Brisbane's suburbs.

The CBD BUG and its members have followed the debates within Council and the media regarding Transapex, the mooted Hale Street Bridge and the possible consequential changes which could accompany such a bridge. I am writing to you, and Councillor Hinchliffe on behalf of the CBD BUG to convey our views on these issues.

The CBD BUG strongly supports reallocation of road space to public transport, cyclists and pedestrians, in the belief that this will be economically and socially positive for the City, and discourage car dependency. We would argue that whatever additional space is created by a new bridge, whether tolled or untolled, should not be an addition to space available for motor vehicles.

Brisbane City Council's support for and results from Travel Smart initiatives indicates the importance of improving resources available to cyclists and pedestrians, if desired reductions in car use and increases in public transport and active transport modes are to be progressively achieved. The draft CBD Masterplan also envisages similar changes.

Accordingly, the CBD BUG believes that if the proposed Hale Street Bridge proceeds, it should only be on the basis originally mooted – ie. that at least one lane on the William Jolly Bridge should be re-allocated to cycling and pedestrian traffic. The project's provision of this lane, and

the possibility of the project also providing effective and appropriate connection for the range of cycling routes (both on and off-road) into and out of the city centre, is necessary and overdue.

Contrary to some of the tabloid reporting, to proceed on this basis would not and should not be construed as “funnelling” for revenue raising purposes, as has reportedly been the case recently in certain tolled routes in Sydney.

Further, we would expect that in the event that the proposed bridge does proceed, work will be undertaken and conducted with full consideration for and minimal disruption to cyclists and cycling routes. Where major disruption is unavoidable, realistic and appropriate alternative routes and detours must be provided.

Should you have any queries in regard to this position, or wish to discuss the matter, I can be contacted on 3815 9403 (W), 0419 663329 (mobile) or by email on [cbdbug@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cbdbug@yahoo.com.au).

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Paul Murdoch  
Co-Convenor  
Brisbane CBD BUG

16 May 2006

CC: Councillor Graham Quirk, Chair BCC Transport and Major Projects Committee  
Councillor Helen Abrahams, Chair BCC Environment and Sustainability Committee