

MEDIA RELEASE

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Brisbane City Council kicks cycling into gear

The Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle Users Group (CBD BUG) has enthusiastically welcomed Brisbane City Council's (BCC's) installation of a dedicated bike lane in George Street, continuing its major overhaul of Brisbane's Central Business District (CBD). This bike lane is expected to be the first of many in the CBD to make the Council's bike hire scheme, due to commence in 2010, practical and safe to use.

Constructing the bike lane has meant removing on-street car parking along one side of George Street between Turbot Street and Herschel Street, essential for providing cyclists with sufficient road space in the city. Importantly, it creates a link with the new Kurilpa (Tank Street) Bridge, due to be opened this Sunday, 4 October by Premier Anna Bligh.

According to CBD BUG spokesperson Paul French "cyclists are delighted with the rollout of new bike lanes and welcomed them as another part of the Lord Mayor delivering on his four-year \$100 million dollar election commitment to improve Brisbane's cycling infrastructure".

"Because of the current lack of road space for cyclists it is principally only experienced and confident cyclists who can cycle within the CBD. Bike lanes mean many more people will feel it is safe to come into the city on their bikes" Mr French said. "This is a turning point after the decades of neglect by transport policy makers at every level of government of active transport modes such as cycling and walking that has driven Brisbane residents into using their cars even for very short trips".

The BCC's announcement that the RiverWalk will be completed through to New Farm by the end of 2010 is another massive step forward for cycling as it means many more people will be able to leave their cars at home, saving millions of dollars in reduced fuel bills, lost time from traffic congestion, and physical and psychological health benefits from getting out on their bikes. "There's a lot of talk about securing the city's future as a liveable city and this is probably one of, if not the best way, to achieve this outcome," Mr French said.

Mr French also congratulated the Lord Mayor and Brisbane City Council on behalf of the CBD BUG's more than 400 members for getting on with the job of improving Brisbane's desperately needed cycling infrastructure, and alleviating the city's chronic traffic congestion. Building a better cycling network works because more people are encouraged to cycle. It's a simple formula when it comes to transport infrastructure — if you build it they will come.

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