



MEDIA RELEASE

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

GPO Box 2104, Brisbane 4001

convenors@cbdbug.org.au

www.cbdbug.org.au

27 September 2010

Excitement mounts as CityCycle ready to roll

The Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) is counting down the hours until Brisbane City Council's new CityCycle bike hire scheme opens this Friday at 10 am. Dozens of stations will be open and ready to use on Friday, and the remainder of the 150 stations and up to 2000 bikes will be rolled out over the coming months.

The scheme was a major commitment of Lord Mayor Campbell Newman at the last election, and its delivery represents the culmination of years of work and planning by BCC staff. The logistics involved in designing and building 150 cycle stations in Brisbane's inner suburbs are significant and it is exciting to see the program now coming to fruition.

Although the CBD BUG expects its well over 500 members won't be rushing to get rid of their own bicycles, the CityCycle bikes provide a valuable and flexible alternative for many kinds of trips, including those that don't start at home, those that need to mix transport modes, and those where bike parking at the destination is not convenient. "Many of our members have already signed up for the scheme and are eagerly awaiting its commencement on Friday" said CBD BUG spokesperson Paul French.

Perhaps the most important benefit of the scheme is that it will let those who aren't already regular cyclists discover how easy it is to hop on a bike and get to where they need to go. "50% of all trips in Brisbane are less than 5 km, and 30% are less than 3 km, so there's huge potential for people to switch from cars, buses and trains, reducing congestion on our roads and public transport" Mr French said. "The bikes are deliberately designed to have a relaxed, European-style posture, so there's no need to get hot and sweaty on them, even with Brisbane's warm climate."

The roll-out of the scheme has been supported by other projects delivered as part of Campbell Newman's \$100 million dollar bikeway program, as well as bikeway projects and funding from the State Government. The last year has seen the completion of the Kurilpa Bridge and Go Between Bridge (which includes dedicated bicycle and pedestrian paths), the second stage of the Bicentennial Bikeway upgrade project, and many smaller improvements around the city. While there's much that's still to be done, all of this is helping make Brisbane a more connected and accessible city.

Ends

Media contact: Paul French 0423 974 825 convenors@cbdbug.org.au