



MEDIA RELEASE

Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group
CBD BUG

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Cyclists catch up with motorists via Sir Leo Hielscher Bridge bike path

South East Queensland cyclists will celebrate this weekend with the opening at 11.00 am on Sunday 27 June 2010 of the bike and pedestrian path on the new Sir Leo Hielscher Bridge.

The opening of this path marks the end of more than 24 years of waiting by cyclists, who have not been able to cross the river at this point since the Sir James Holt vehicular ferry ceased operating in January 1986 when the first Gateway Bridge opened.

Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) spokesperson Paul French said the new bike path would be well used and provide taxpayers with a high return on investment.

However, the CBD BUG has called on the State Government to immediately address the bridge's lack of appropriate connectivity with the existing bikeway network in Brisbane's northern suburbs to get even more "bang for its buck".

Factors such as the near complete absence of public transport to the major employment precincts close to the bridge (such as of the Australian Trade Coast and Brisbane Airport on the north side and the Metroplex industrial estate on the south side); the rapidly increasing bridge toll; the bridge's close proximity to two of Brisbane's cycle racing tracks at Nundah and Murarrie; and the fact that new cycling infrastructure always attracts additional cyclist traffic would ensure the new facility was well used and popular.

Mr French said "The Brisbane River is an iconic feature of this city, but it is also a major barrier to the growth of cycling as an alternative to the car for personal transport because of the lack of river crossings for cyclists. With more than 70,000 pedestrians and cyclists using the Goodwill Bridge every week the \$33 million cost of that bridge is a far better investment in relieving traffic congestion than the hundreds of millions it costs to build a bridge or tunnel for motor vehicles".

He went on to say that the Smart State Council recommendations for building new cyclists and pedestrian bridges across the river in July 2007 provided a vision to turn the Smart State capital into Australia's Knowledge City.

On the basis of this report and the information coming through the Brisbane City Council's *Smart Cities* process the CBD BUG is calling for immediate action from the Queensland Government on building additional cyclist and pedestrian bridges to provide routes across the river between:

- Bulimba and Teneriffe;
- Kangaroo Point and New Farm;
- Kangaroo Point and the CBD;
- the CBD and South Bank (duplicating the Victoria Bridge); and
- Toowong and Hill End.

"There's a lot of talk about securing Brisbane's future as a sustainable and liveable city. Expanding the city's cycling infrastructure is at the top of the best ways to achieve this outcome and should be receiving more funding from the State Government" Paul French said.

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