



MEDIA RELEASE

Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

www.cbdbug.org.au

Bicentennial Bikeway upgrade opens before being Downgraded!

The CBD BUG congratulates Brisbane City Council and Queensland Government on the opening of Stage 4, of the upgraded Bicentennial Bikeway, however the full benefits may never be realized with the next section towards Toowong set to be downgraded!

The Bicentennial Bikeway is Queensland's busiest active transport corridor. Running along the Brisbane River and connecting the CBD to Toowong, each day it carries up to 6,500 bicycle riders and pedestrians. There is little doubt that the upgrades have been gravely needed with patronage jumping 65% since the upgrades began. With the \$10 million Stage 4 now open cyclists and pedestrian are provided with a continuous separated segregated and safe corridor linking High St Toowong, through to the CBD.

Stage 4 was the final upgrade but its true benefits are now being thrown to the wind with the approval of the Grace on Coronation development by Brisbane City Council. Grace on Coronation development proposes that the great work by BCC and Queensland Government in upgrading the Bicentennial Bikeway be ignored and the current separated & segregated section between Glen Rd and Booth St Toowong be re-routed via Archer St. Grace on Coronation is proposing that the existing path be removed for their driveway and divert bicycle traffic up to Archer St via an indirect path that then requires cyclists to use the Archer St roadway.

The CBD BUG finds such a proposal simply unacceptable. International research clearly points to the fact that if we wish for people to ride we need safe separated and direct paths. Where volumes are high segregation is required to boost capacity and amenity of a path.

The fact that BCC has approved this development is clearly showing BCC does not understand what is required to get people riding bikes. To add insult to the indirect diversion is the cycling inhospitable nature of Archer St. This street is far higher than the existing off road route with Archer St possessing short and steep climbs for anyone approaching from the East or West. BCC is well aware that undulating nature of Brisbane can affect cycling rates so it begs questions why BCC would be suggesting people riding bikes take an indirect steep route over the existing flatter corridor.

CBD BUG co-convenor Donald Campbell stated "I welcome the opening of Stage 4 but I wonder how much benefit will be gained with the Grace on Coronation Development Approval going through. If this development is built anyone riding a bike will be faced with either riding a steep cycling inhospitable route, or risking personal injury crossing the developments driveway which includes a slip lane. The fact is the Council should have required all access to the development be via Archer St and the cycling corridor to remain as is. This is a case of death by a thousand cuts"

With the added capacity that the completion of Stage 4 provides, the Bicentennial Bikeway has the potential for thousands of extra pedestrian and bicycle rider movements to be safely and easily accommodated each day. How long these benefits can be appreciated depends on whether Council reviews the approval of Grace on Coronation.

Ends

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