



MEDIA RELEASE

Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

www.cbdbug.org.au

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Brisbane bicycle riders rejoice with the replacement Riverwalk opening

The Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) is exceedingly pleased that the new Riverwalk is opening today and congratulates Council. The new Riverwalk provides a vital off-road corridor for cyclists and pedestrians of the inner north east. The importance of this corridor was proven before the destruction of the former walkway in 2011 with it carrying around 3000 people a day.

The new Riverwalk is a segregated, fixed structure that is above the king tide mark and CBD BUG understands it does meet the following four key design features that the CBD BUG outlined in a previous media releases on this issue:

1. Segregation of bicycle riders and pedestrians (safety factor)
2. Designed for bicycle commuters (safety factor)
3. Clear lines of sight (safety factor)
4. Above the king tide mark (reliability factor)

The widely held misconception surrounding the former walkway is that its primary function was for recreation. The truth is the greatest community benefit was gained from the vast majority of users being commuters, whether they be pedestrians or cyclists. This resulted in thousands of potential daily car movements being taken off congested inner city streets. The new Riverwalk being segregated is a key component towards designing for pedestrian & bicycle commuter traffic and will result in a capacity far in excess of what was carried just before the 2011 floods.

CDB BUG co-convenor Donald Campbell said "It is very exciting that the Riverwalk is now open. Many from the Inner North East have been gravely missing this link into the CBD since the 2011 floods, myself included. New Farm, Teneriffe was developing a cycling culture that had dropped away somewhat. People will, did and will again ride in everyday cloths to work or to shop in the CBD now that this important link has been re-established. Having to ride on streets with buses had deterred many that use to ride on the old structure. I am sure with the new Riverwalk now open this everyday practical cycling will return quite dramatically."

With Riverwalk replacement open there should be a jump in Citycycle usage as well. Before the floods New Farm, Teneriffe was a main activity point and Riverwalk was a major catalyst to this. The flat corridor that it is again, makes these bikes extremely practical for commuting & everyday errands.

In September 2012 the CBD BUG received a presentation by the Project Team on the Replacement Riverwalk and the CBD BUG was very pleased with what they were shown and that has now been constructed. Much of the facility is very well thought out.

CBD BUG convenor Donald Campbell went on to say "Now that the Riverwalk is open it would be good for council to improve the amenity of the streets that feed Riverwalk. Sydney St is a prime candidate for what the Americans call a "Bicycle Boulevard". This is where the street is improved to be a both welcoming and pleasant for both cyclists and residents. Sydney St is listed by Brisbane City Council as a secondary cycling corridor through New Farm!"

Today (opening day) could not come soon enough with many itching to be able reach the CBD or New Farm on a quick, direct, pleasant and safe corridor. Residents of the inner north east had begun to develop a cycling culture when provided with quality infrastructure, which will once again flourish with the new Riverwalk now open. The CBD BUG intends to include the Riverwalk in its monthly bikeway counts.

Ends