



MEDIA RELEASE

Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

www.cbdbug.org.au

26 April 2013

Riverwalk Replacement one pedal stroke closer

Brisbane City Council's announcement for the awarding of the contract replacing the former floating Riverwalk walkway has been welcomed by the Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG). The former Riverwalk provided a vital off-road corridor for the cyclists and pedestrians of the inner north east for which its replacement will once again fulfil. The importance of this corridor was proven before the destruction of the former walkway with it carrying around 3000 people a day.

The replacement is to be a segregated, fixed structure that will be above the king tide mark and CBD BUG understands that it will meet the following four key design features, the group outlined in its submission to Council on this issue:

1. Segregation of bike 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 was that its primary function was for recreation. However, the greatest community benefit was gained from the vast majority of people using Riverwalk being commuters. This resulted in thousands of potential daily car movements being taken off congested inner city streets. The replacement structure being segregated is a key component towards designing for pedestrian and bicycle commuter traffic and will result in a facility with significantly improved safety, amenity & capacity.

CBD BUG spokesman Donald Campbell said it is very exciting that the contract has now been awarded. Many Inner North East residents have had to simply give up commuting by bike as a result of the Riverwalk's destruction. This region had previously been developing a cycling culture that has now stalled. People would ride in everyday clothes to work or to shop in the CBD. Having to ride on streets now with buses deters many as city street environments can be very intimidating. I am confident that when the replacement opens in late 2014 this everyday practical cycling will quickly return. That said the CBD BUG now understands that the construction may be completed a little earlier.

Before the 2011 floods Riverwalk acted as a major catalyst for New Farm and Teneriffe being a principal centre of active transport. The flat and safe corridor Riverwalk provided will again make bike riding more practical and safe for commuting, shopping and running everyday errands.

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