



MEDIA RELEASE

Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

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Council rejects Edward St bike lane that retailers support

Brisbane's leading grass-roots cycling advocacy group has spoken out about the Brisbane City Council's (BCC) recent rejection of a protected bike lane as part of the Edward St upgrade, a bike lane that initial consultation shows the majority of affected retailers supported. The Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) says the reasons behind the decision are nonsensical, and not installing a protected bikelane is a backward step, as Edward St retail businesses would profit from it.

The CBD BUG is deeply disappointed BCC has rejected a petition calling for a protected bi-directional bikelane to be included in the Edward St Project. It is a move that contradicts Council's stated ambition to increase cycling in Brisbane.

CBD BUG spokesperson and lead petitioner Donald Campbell said "it defies logic Council would sidestep this opportunity right when the State Government is spending millions improving the main bikeway from the south, and building a brand new bikeway from the north. Edward St is also marked on the State Government's SEQ Cycle Network Plan as a "Future Principal Cycle Route" so why would council not provide for cycling?"

Donald said "we know from the evidence, from right around the world that when a protected bikelane is installed, local businesses get a boost. One study out of New York showed a 40% jump in retail sales in a year. This is the opposite of what was inferred in the council chamber. Also initial consultation conducted by the CBD BUG showed that, the majority of retailers along Edward St were not adverse to the idea with some overwhelmingly in favour of it."

"The CBD BUG rejects BCC claims that there is insufficient space, and that bus stops are a limiting factor. In fact there is plenty of space and also numerous engineering solutions that have been available for decades from a host of other jurisdictions. These are the sort of excuses rolled out when an administration simply doesn't want to do something. The provision of a protected bike lane could represent as little as 15% of the Edward St boundary to boundary width! (2.6m for bi-directional bikelanes, 0.4m for protective low-rise kerbing)."

The CBD BUG views the Edward St Project as a perfect opportunity to begin the process of making the CBD accessible by bike for anyone aged 8 to 80. Edward St forms part of the "Space 4 cycling Brisbane" CBD protected grid. "Space 4 Cycling Brisbane" is a coalition of local bicycle user groups (including the CBD BUG) that campaigned in the lead up to the 2016 BCC election.

Ends

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