



MEDIA RELEASE

Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

www.cbdbug.org.au

Queensland Government back-pedalling on cycling

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Brisbane cyclists have reacted angrily to news the Queensland Government is ditching plans to build 7.2 kilometres of new bikeway beside the Centenary Highway stretching from Greenbank to Springfield.

The move comes on top of \$11 million dollars, about 25%, being cut from the annual cycling budget of the Department of Transport and Main Roads as part of the Queensland Government's recent budget austerity measures.

Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) spokesperson Paul French labelled the bikeway back-flip as both short-sighted and contradictory to the Queensland Government's own policy to make state-controlled transport projects cycle-friendly by incorporating cycle-friendly design. (<http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Travel-and-transport/Cycling/Cyclists.aspx>)

Mr French said "the Minister claims to be a cyclist himself - but his actions speak louder than his words".

"You can be quite certain the two additional lanes for motorists will be a poor investment for the community over the longer term - compared to installing a bikeway through an area which at the moment is a cyclist no-go zone because there is nothing for cyclists" stated Mr French.

"Another short-sighted aspect of this decision can be seen from what is being experienced in regard to the bikeway now being installed along the South East Busway – that retro-fitting cyclist infrastructure is much more expensive than if it is installed at the same time as other transport project components".

"It's also worth questioning where are all those extra 5,000 motorists going park when they arrive at their destinations - because that is one of the consequences of encouraging more people to drive that has been ignored in this decision".

Mr French went on to say "the Minister's suggestion that installing new bikeways is 'gold plating' is laughable and makes a mockery of the strong community demand for new cycling infrastructure. Where quality bikeways have been installed there has been significant growth in cycling trips that take pressure of Brisbane's stressed road and public transport networks. It's a no-brainer".

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