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# MEDIA RELEASE

**Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group**

**CBD BUG**

[www.cbdbug.org.au](http://www.cbdbug.org.au)

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## **A new world city needs a world class CityCycle scheme**

A leading Brisbane advocacy group for people who ride bikes is calling on the Brisbane City Council (BCC) to remove CityCycle's nightly closure from 10 pm to 5 am and allow users of the public bike share scheme 24/7 access to hire bikes.

The call has coming following analysis showing that the CityCycle scheme's highly restricted hours are a unique among international bike sharing schemes. Schemes of its size generally have no restrictions on when bikes can be hired.

CBD BUG spokesperson Dr Richard Bean said his organisation is a strong supporter of Brisbane's CityCycle public bike hire scheme. However, the scheme's nightly closure is a highly restrictive and unnecessary anomaly among similar large scale bike sharing schemes across the world.

Reasons put forward by Council for the nightly CityCycle closure include: noise, safety and to enable bicycle distribution and maintenance. However, according to the CBD BUG these reasons are neither valid nor compelling.

Furthermore, analysis of usage rates on other schemes around the world indicates there is significant demand during between the hours of 10 pm to 5 am. For example, JCDecaux usage data indicates that for their seven 24/7 schemes with 100 or more stations, during the months of June to August 2013 more than 15% of weekend trips were taken between the hours of 10 pm and 5 am. In Seville, approximately 30% of weekend trips were taken during these hours. Journey data from Washington, Boston, and London show that in these cities approximately 7-8% of all journeys are made between the hours of 10 pm to 5 am, with higher rates at weekends.

According to Dr Bean if the CityCycle scheme is to be part of Brisbane being a new world city, then CityCycle must operate on a 24/7 basis. This would increase its usage by making it a more convenient scheme for existing and potential users.

CBD BUG spokesman Dr Bean stated that "there are now more than 620 schemes operational in cities worldwide. Many of these cities have urban densities similar to Brisbane's, and also varying challenges such as topography and weather. Yet the usage rate of Brisbane's scheme is apparently the lowest in the world for any scheme with 100 stations or more".

"On the basis that it is clear the current time restriction cannot be justified we call for its removal. This will bring CityCycle into line with the other similar schemes in Australia and overseas" said Dr Bean. He went on to say that "If Council is serious about active transport, or serious about meeting cycling modal share targets, it needs to encourage CityCycle's take up and use and not impose unwarranted limitations".

**Ends**

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