

QUEENSLAND HEALTH BRIEF FOR NOTING

Our Ref:

Date: 14 July 2010

TO Deputy Premier and Minister for Health

FROM Executive Project Director, Queensland Children's Hospital Project

SUBJECT Footpath closure – Queensland Children's Hospital

Requested by SDLO

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That you note:
 - the Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH) intends to continue to negotiate for the closure of the footpath and creation of a new segregated cycle lane on Stanley Street in order to meet workplace health and safety requirements and ensure the safety of the general public; and
 - the conflicting interests and advice received by the QCH Project team in relation to the footpath closure on the southern (QCH) side of Stanley Street.

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

- The Queensland Children's Hospital is a \$1.4 billion capital project being constructed on a brown field site in the South Brisbane precinct between Raymond Terrace and Stanley Street.
- Stanley Street is a major traffic thoroughfare that has a cycle lane and caters for pedestrian traffic via a designated footpath. The Stanley Street road reserve is integral to the Queensland Children's Hospital development, and will form part of an emergency department drop-off zone for the new hospital, making it easy for parents to access treatment in an emergency. During construction the Stanley Street interface of the QCH Project is a nominated work zone. Substantial underground services, infrastructure and realignment of Stanley Street will require the demolition of the footpath that currently exists. This work zone needs to accommodate trucks entering and leaving the worksite on a continual basis during work hours.
- To ensure the safety of the general public, pedestrians and cyclists, discussions have been held with the Brisbane City Council (BCC) regarding the closure of the footpath on the QCH side of Stanley Street. Pedestrian traffic will be directed to the other side of Stanley Street to ensure their safety. Pedestrians and the general public will be able to use a sealed footpath on the other side of Stanley Street and will be able to cross back to the Mater side of Stanley Street, if required, at a designated pedestrian crossing. This will remove any possible workplace health and safety risk on the construction side of Stanley Street where there could be interactions with pedestrians.

- Preliminary discussions with the BCC have indicated that they have some concerns about the closure of the footpath. Brisbane City Council's concerns regarding the footpath closure does affect the capacity for Abigroup to comply with workplace health and safety obligations as a managing contractor for the construction of the new hospital.
- The QCH Project must maintain a safe environment for both workers and the general public while constructing the new hospital.

ISSUES

- Abigroup have been in discussion with the BCC in relation to the closure of the footpath. There are differing views in BCC regarding, the closure of the footpath, the temporary closure of the cycle lane and the impact on both the pedestrians and the cyclists. These views accord with Workplace Health and Safety Requirements associated with the construction site.
- Councillor Abrahams of BCC prefers the cycle lane to remain at all times during construction. Councillor Cooper of BCC prefers the footpath to remain open. The cycle lane will be closed temporarily while a new lane is being constructed.
- Workplace health and safety officers from the Mt Gravatt Office state the footpath and the cycle lane will need to close during construction to ensure safety of the general community and to comply with workplace health and safety requirements.
- Abigroup met with the BCC last week. The outcome of the meeting was that Abigroup were to present more data to BCC in relation to the numbers of pedestrians using the footpath. A further pedestrian study was conducted over the last two days by traffic engineers, Cardno Eppel Olsen.
- Abigroup also met with a member of the BCC and two inspectors from Workplace Health and Safety of the Mt Gravatt Office. Workplace Health and Safety reiterated the need to close the footpath during construction and the cycle lane while the new cycle lane is being constructed.
- Abigroup will organise a further follow up meeting with BCC to present the data and the information from Workplace Health and Safety Inspectors. This meeting will be arranged in the next fortnight on site to ensure all parties are familiar with the site and the safety issues.
- Abigroups inability to close the footpath will impact construction as they have a requirement to meet Occupational Health and Safety requirements associated with construction activities.
- It is anticipated that an outcome will be negotiated in the next month that allows the closure of the footpath, construction of the new cycle lane, with alternative, safe pedestrian access available on the opposite side of Stanley Street during construction.
- One of the two Cycle User Groups is unlikely to support this outcome.
- On completion of the QCH in late 2014 pedestrian and cycle access will be fully reinstated.

CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

- Brisbane City Council Footpath Committee has been extensively consulted. Numerous meetings have been held with BCC Officers and Councillors in the last few months.
- The Workplace Health and Safety Office at Mt Gravatt have been consulted.
- Two Bicycle User Group has been consulted and one stands against the closure of the cycle lane in Stanley Street.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- Nil.

ATTACHMENTS

- Nil.

NOTED or APPROVED / NOT APPROVED		
Deputy Premier and Minister for Health		
Comments		
Paul Lucas Deputy Premier and Minister for Health	Principal/Senior Policy Advisor	Policy Advisor
/ /	/ /	/ /

Political Representatives

Local Government

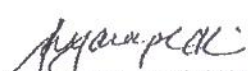
- Councillor Helen Abrahams, The Gabba Ward.

State Government

- Honourable Anna Bligh MP, Premier and Minister for the Arts, Member for South Brisbane.

Federal Government

- The Honourable Kevin Rudd MP, Member for Griffith.

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 Election Commitment

 CBRC / Cabinet related

 ECM related