



MEDIA RELEASE

**Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group
CBD BUG**

GPO Box 2104, Brisbane 4001

convenors@cbdbug.org.au

www.cbdbug.org.au

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North Brisbane Cycleway to deliver benefits for Brisbane's north

Premier Anna Bligh's promise to build the long-awaited North Brisbane Cycleway is a boon for all residents of Brisbane's northern suburbs, says the Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG), a group of around 650 people who want to see better and safer conditions for cycling in Brisbane.

The new cycleway will connect from the existing cycle network on the northern edge of the CBD to the Kedron Brook Bikeway, providing a safe cycle connection into the city for many northsiders. The new cycleway will be an important transport link, and is forecast to carry five thousand people per day, taking thousands of cars off the road and freeing up scarce seats on public transport.

CBD BUG spokesperson Ian Lister said that the government's own data show cycling has been languishing in Brisbane's north because of the lack of infrastructure, and the need for the new cycleway is one of the highest priority issues identified by the BUG. "This weekend's announcement by the Premier is very welcome, as it will deliver a much-needed connection to the north. BUG representatives have met with numerous state MPs, local Councillors and Department of Transport and Main Roads staff, and everybody agrees the new cycleway is a clear winner, but until now nobody has been willing to commit to building it. The pressure is now on the LNP to commit too, or risk losing hundreds of votes."

The benefits of the cycleway go well beyond increased safety and reduced traffic congestion and pollution for Brisbane's northern suburbs — cycle infrastructure is much cheaper than equivalent road infrastructure, and the sharply rising cost to Queensland's health system of obesity, heart disease and other sedentary lifestyle diseases means that every person who gets on a bike saves taxpayers money. A recent AECOM study in Sydney showed nearly four dollars in economic benefits for every dollar spent on cycle infrastructure, a huge return on investment compared to building additional road space for cars.

Mr Lister also welcomed Anna Bligh's promise of stiffer penalties for people using motor vehicles as weapons against cyclists. "It's an unfortunate reality that there are a small minority of people out on the roads who will deliberately endanger the lives of others," he said. "There is no place for violence or aggression of any kind on our roads, and a motor vehicle can be a very deadly weapon, particularly when used against a person on a bicycle. Everybody on the roads needs to have respect for everybody else, whether they are in a car or on a bicycle."

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Media contact: Ian Lister 0403 984 434 convenors@cbdbug.org.au