



Brisbane West BUG
2 Daintree St
Paddington
QLD 4064

Sunday 24 April 2016

Office of the Lord Mayor
GPO Box 2287
Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Lord Mayor

Bikeways Election Commitments – Land Street Tunnel

I am writing on behalf of the Brisbane West Bicycle Users Group regarding your election commitment to build a tunnel at Land Street Toowong.

As there are no publicly available details about this project, other than mentioned as part of your bikeway announcements during the election campaign, my comments are based on what I assume is proposed. Namely a separate pedestrian tunnel that essentially parallels the existing shared bikeway tunnel under Coronation Drive between Land Street and the Bicentennial Bikeway.

Our members question any immediate need for an additional tunnel. We note the current tunnel was only recently repainted as part of the completion of this portion of the Bicentennial Bikeway. The intersection with the Bicentennial was widened and included new line marking which improved safety. We note the work also included new pavement markings in the tunnel that more clearly designated the space to separate people walking from those riding bicycles.

Could you please explain what current and projected demand there is that is not serviced by the existing tunnel?

Could you please provide details of any conflicts that have occurred between users of the tunnel since the latest improvements have been completed? We know of none, and Bicycle Queensland informs us they also have not been notified of any.

Given that you have reduced the bikeway budget this term; the fact the bulk of the recent \$120 million bikeway budget was spent on Bicentennial Bikeway upgrades; and that construction of an underpass in this location is likely to cost in the order of \$10 million, we argue this money could be much better spent providing additional separated cycling infrastructure capacity in new locations where there is much greater potential to generate new demand. It would also be better spent addressing the many genuine safety concerns of people riding bicycles in other locations.

We further contend that while the existing underpass might not be ideal, the recent improvements mean the time for another significant investment here can be put off to the future when the rest of the cycling network has been brought up to a higher standard. If it is deemed absolutely vital that further separation of pedestrians and cyclists is warranted here, consideration should be given to

less costly interim solutions, for instance raising the pedestrian walk areas through the underpass and narrowing the cycle space to encourage lower speeds. Prior to any further changes here we ask that you engage with representative local users such as Brisbane West BUG as well as the peak bodies such as Bicycle Queensland.

If there is a genuine concern about conflicts at underpasses between people walking and people riding bicycles, the demand for separation would be equal or greater at the Cribb Street tunnel, as there is significantly more office and residential development in the vicinity of this underpass.

We look forward to your response and working with you to resolve any issues here.

Sincerely

Jacob Curtis

Convenor

Brisbane West Bicycle User Group

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