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25 May 2016

Mr Jacob Curtis
Convenor
Brisbane West Bicycle User Group

Dear Mr Curtis

Thank you for your email of 26 April 2016 about the Land Street Tunnel project that I committed to as part of my \$100 million bikeways election commitment.

Council is a strong supporter of cycling to ease congestion and promotes an active and healthy lifestyle. Over the last four years, we have worked in partnership with Brisbane's bicycling community to identify and deliver over 100 bikeway projects to create a better commuter network of bikeways that service major employment areas, as well as improving access and safe travel to local shopping strips, schools and public transport hubs.

As you are aware, during the recent election campaign, I announced an additional \$100 million over the next four years to continue expanding our world-class off-road bikeway network. This investment is in addition to significant investments Council will make in new dedicated bikeways on Kingsford Smith Drive and Wynnum Road. Over the next four years, Council will deliver 30 suburban bikeways and five major projects including the Stanley Street Bikeway, Indooroopilly Bikeway Stage 1, Goodwill Bridge to Story Bridge Bikeway Stage 1, Alice Street to Edward Street Bikeway and the Land Street Tunnel.

I certainly agree that we need to ensure our active transport network is as safe as possible for all users. We are seeing strong growth in people choosing to cycle and it is important that our active transport network is built to safely cater the expected growth in demand.

As you would be aware, the Land Street Tunnel forms part of the connection between the Bicentennial Bikeway with the Western Freeway Bikeway. Council considers that the existing tunnel provides a conflict point between cyclists and pedestrians. While the works completed on the tunnel as part of the Bicentennial Bikeway have certainly improved safety, the existing tunnel is not expected to accommodate the future growth expected in this location. The Land Street Tunnel project will increase capacity and remove the conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians.

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The works on the Bicentennial Bikeway have also been undertaken to better segregate cyclists and pedestrians to reduce the conflict between these two user groups and provide a safer environment for the large number of users. A number of the bikeways projects that Council has constructed have improved the segregation between cyclists and pedestrians, including the Bicentennial Bikeway and Kedron Brook bikeway upgrade projects.

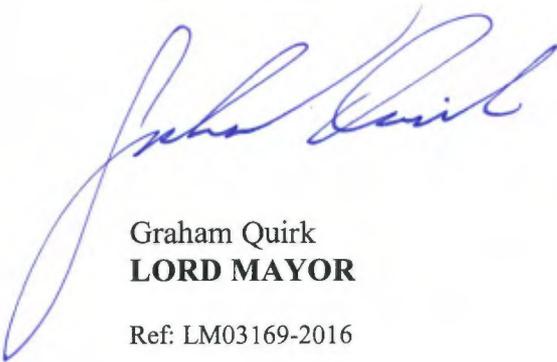
I acknowledge your members are concerned about the timing of this project and note your comments there may be more immediate safety needs across the network. The Land Street Tunnel project is just one of over 35 projects to be delivered over the next four years. Council is currently developing a four-year forward plan and those bikeway projects that will deliver the greatest benefits in terms of safety and amenity will be prioritised.

Council highly values the advocacy and first hand experiences that our cycling community provides. Over the last four years, Bicycle Queensland (BQ) and BUGs have been instrumental in identifying priority locations for improvements across the city. I can assure you that Council will continue to consult with BQ and BUGs on any bikeway projects. I would also encourage to continue to identify locations where safety improvements could be made so that Council officers can investigate.

I have asked Mr Mark Pattemore from Council's Transport Planning and Strategy branch to contact you again in June to discuss Council's bikeway forward program in more detail. If you would like to discuss these matters in the interim, Mr Pattemore can be contacted on 3403 8888.

Thank you for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Graham Quirk
LORD MAYOR

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