

16 March 2022

Lord Mayor Cr Adrian Schrinner,
Transport Chair Cr Ryan Murphy.
Via email.

Bicycle Queensland represents about 10,000 members in the greater Brisbane area. Our members are bike riders who use Brisbane City Council bikeways on a daily basis.

In the wake of the recent severe weather event, Bicycle Queensland offers these suggestions and requests, because our members remain unduly affected by the damage caused to bikeways and shared paths.

Our primary concern is the quickest possible restoration of the Bicentennial Bikeway. It is literally the bike riding equivalent of the Western Freeway being closed to all traffic.

More than 5000 riders a day have been blocked from their usual route, plus e-mobility and walkers.

We note that the BCC website (<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/community-and-safety/community-safety/february-2022-severe-weather-event-recovery/latest-updates-february-2022-severe-weather-event/impacted-council-services>) gives no timelines for either inspection of the bikeway, or for the removal of debris.

It would be very helpful to have a timeline on how long this disruption will last! We urge you to collaborate closely with Maritime Safety Queensland to expedite the removal of the former Drift restaurant from the bikeway.

On behalf of our members, we found this sentence to be unhelpful: *“Path users are encouraged to use safe alternative routes where appropriate while we work towards reopening.”*

Lord Mayor and Cr Murphy, our bikeways are always vulnerable to severe weather events because our network of bikeways and shared paths is not resilient, and lacks alternatives. The Bicentennial Bikeway is a world-class facility, but there is no fallback, no detour bikeway for 5000 regular bike riders to use.

Bicycle Queensland’s members are keen to work with BCC on solutions. Here are some suggestions that take seriously the concerns of bike riders and others who use the Bicentennial:

- BCC could provide a temporary bike lane on Coronation Drive
- Free train travel for bike riders at Toowong and Auchenflower stations to CBD stations
- Free travel on BCC buses for bike riders from Toowong to City destinations.
- Sign alternate route such as <https://www.strava.com/routes/2938247928450082494>
- Temporary lowering of the speed limit to 40 km/h on the sections of Coronation Drive which are likely to have increased bike traffic



We have all become familiar with the refrain “Build it back better”. Lord Mayor, if two thirds of our bikeways are submerged in a 10-year flood event, this has implications for where and how we build active transport infrastructure.

Bicycle Queensland and the bicycle user groups are keen to work with BCC to improve the design and placement of active transport and e-mobility infrastructure. The effects of climate change and the rapidly approaching Olympic Games both lend a sense of urgency to this task.

Many BQ members have reported to us that they see the lack of timelines for repairing bikeways as a symbol of BCC’s priorities. We urge you to consider active transport and e-mobility as being of equal significance in Council’s transport system as the road network.

Building a resilient system that can withstand future flood events is part of re-ordering these priorities.

yours towards a healthier Brisbane and a sustainable future

Rebecca Randazzo, CEO

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