



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

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Via email to: Lord.Mayor@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Dear Lord Mayor

I am writing on behalf of the Brisbane CBD BUG as a follow up to an email forwarded to your office via the Brisbane City Council (BCC) website on 5 June 2023. The original email related to information contained on BCC's website regarding 'mandatory' bell ringing required of people riding bikes around pedestrians on shared paths. An automatic acknowledgement was received but no response.

As was previously requested three months ago, we would like to know the legislative backing for this 'requirement'. The wording on the website makes it clear that this is considered a mandate for bike riders yet there is nothing in the Qld Road Rules that require this, only that a bicycle has a bell attached to it.

Rather than repeat the information contained in the original webform I have copied it below for your reference. This includes a link to the relevant page.

Dear Lord Mayor

We have been referred by members of the public to a website page owned by Brisbane City Council where a statement is made that cyclists MUST ring their bell every time they pass a pedestrian on shared paths.

On the page titled "Riding rules, signs and safety tips" in the section "Shared Pathways" this appears:

"Bike and personal mobility device riders must slow down and sound their bell when approaching people walking." This appears further down the page as well.

The Brisbane CBD BUG would like to know the legislative source for this statement about mandatory bell ringing.

Apart from this being a totally impractical statement to follow in practice, (e.g. when braking) it creates an expectation among other path users that cyclists will ring their bell every time they pass someone, even when this is totally unnecessary or when a vocal call is used instead. As an aside, many pedestrians are affronted and become abusive when bells are used by cyclists.

A far better alternative would be to ask cyclists to warn others of their approach as necessary, without specifying how. Some fellow path users know how to share the path and a warning is not needed. Others certainly do benefit from a bell or voice call. As this bell ringing 'requirement' is not and cannot be policed it should be removed from all materials about cyclists.

In summary, we would like to know the legislative backing for this mandatory statement as it not a requirement in the Qld Road Rules - only having a bell on a bike is.

The Brisbane CBD BUG would be pleased to work with Council officers to come up with some wording on these pages that would work for all path users in a more practical and user friendly manner.

<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/outdoor-activities/riding-in-brisbane/cycling-rules-signs-and-safety-tips> [link to relevant page]

Regards

Mary Doolan
Co-Convenor, CBD BUG

Would you like the Lord Mayor to investigate and provide a full response?

Yes

As noted in this webform, we would appreciate a written response to this request.

Yours faithfully

M Doolan

Mary Doolan
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG
4 September 2023

Cc: Bicycle Queensland
 Space4Cycling Brisbane