

Rachel Monaghan

From: Julie Steel
Sent: Thursday, 23 April 2015 9:51 AM
To: Chief Justice Carmody
Cc: John Cameron; Diane Antonsen
Subject: FW: Closing bicycle access

Chief Justice

As just discussed, I agree with Janelle's advice about our legal position regarding cyclists. I do not think it necessary to ban cyclists (option 1) and I do not even think it desirable. However, I agree that we need to do something to manage the risk of injury to both cyclists and pedestrians of both using our park area. I therefore recommend we adopt Option 2 (except for the option of banning cyclists suggested in it) and continue our liaison with Bicycle Queensland and the QPS about implementation. Would you please know what you would like to happen?

Kind Regards

Julie

Julie Steel
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From: Justice A Lyons
Sent: Wednesday, 15 April 2015 3:13 PM
To: John Cameron
Cc: Billy Campbell; Julie Steel
Subject: RE: Closing bicycle access
Dear John/Billy

Thank you both for looking into this and particularly for doing so promptly.
I appreciate the views of the cycling public.

However I think the essence of the problem is that the paved area in front of the front doors to all intents and purposes presents as a continuation of the bikeway on either side and riders believe they are on a bikeway and act as such.

Can I ask what the legal status of that area is? Is it actually part of the Courts precinct? Is part of it considered a footpath or as part of a park?

Do the cyclists have a right to be there??? Have we invited them on to the property? Who is going to be responsible for the inevitable claim for damages for injuries?

I suppose I just struggle with users of the courts having to vie with cyclists to get to our front door. Why are we allowing cyclists to cut across or swerve around people trying to get in and out of our doors???

Sorry to be a pain.

Thanks

Justice Ann Lyons
Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland
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From: John Cameron
Sent: Wednesday, 15 April 2015 1:24 PM
To: Justice A Lyons
Cc: Billy Campbell; Julie Steel
Subject: FW: Closing bicycle access
Dear Judge

Thank you for raising your concerns (at yesterday's meeting) about cyclists riding through the area between the front entrance to our building and the Coffee Club whilst commuting between Roma & George Streets.

My initial reaction was to ban cyclists altogether from this area in an attempt to reduce risk to pedestrians from cyclists or vice-versa. As you can see below (since the meeting) Billy and I have consulted with Bicycle Queensland to mitigate this risk. It is encouraging that QPS are willing to enforce measures to reduce this risk also.

Ben Wilson (Bicycling Qld CEO) has welcomed an initiative to reduce speed rather than totally ban riders from this area.

I am willing to discuss some of his proposals as well as a total ban with you (and or other concerned Judges) to resolve these concerns for the well-being of all who visit/use the grounds surrounding the precinct.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss further.

Regards

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From: Ben Wilson [<mailto:bqmanager@bq.org.au>]
Sent: Wednesday, 15 April 2015 10:55 AM

To: John Cameron

Subject: FW: Closing bicycle access

Hi John

Firstly thanks for your help and I can see you are in a difficult situation!

We do know some idiots speed on bikes though the courts precinct, but we greatly favour some enforcement and education rather than a ban, or even a dismount, sorry!

So our 7 point plan would be:

1. educate – through the relevant bike groups: Bicycle Qld, Cycling Qld, CBD Bug – I am sure they will all support a 10kph rather than a ban/dismount and walk
2. enforce – Have a 10kph 'Shared Zone' signed speed limit. Police have recently enforced speed limits against bike riders in various places – ticketing riders coming down mt Coot-tha for instance so it can be done and rider behaviour would improve enormously with some random police presence.
3. additional messaging is done – through our website, social media etc and perhaps through signage across the plaza reminding cyclists that it is a strict give-way situation, not a bikeway.
4. while some may say cyclists can easily go around the site, this is far less safe for bike riders, and involves some traffic lights on short hills, or equally busy footpaths, and the problem of bicycles crossing the plaza will be transferred to other parts of the block – both for pedestrians and for the riders.
5. Can we try an incremental approach? A ban/dismount option in fact may not work as the least responsible person will continue to ride through and do it with a bitter negative attitude on a permanent basis.
6. If it helps – we'd submit that world's best practice is not to ban or prevent, but to manage co-existence – as the Dutch do. It doesn't have to be a marked bikeway – probably better not, but instead to promote it as a special 'privilege' so riders feel they are there as a guest, rather than on a bikeway, and need to act accordingly.
7. point 6. above and having groups like us support this position should make for a positive good-behaviour peer group, which is the best answer we think to getting safer outcomes for all.

Happy to discuss or meet on this John.

Regards

Ben

Ben Wilson | CEO

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