



Michael Berkman MP
For Maiwar ▲

7 May 2020

Cr James Mackay
Councillor for the Walter Taylor Ward
Brisbane City Council
By email: waltertaylor.ward@bcc.qld.gov.au

Cc: Adrian Schrunner
Lord Mayor
Brisbane City Council
By email: lordmayor@brisbane.qld.gov.au

QASMT redevelopment and potential impacts on Secondary Cycle Route along Toowong Creek

Dear Cr Mackay,

I'm writing in relation to concerns I have about the ongoing redevelopment at the Queensland Academy of Science Mathematics and Technology (QASMT) and, in particular, the potential impact on one of Brisbane City Council's designated secondary cycle routes along Toowong Creek.

I expect you're aware of the recent closure of the entrance to the Vera St Community Garden and the concern this has generated in the local community about the loss of access to this much loved and well used community space. Immediately upon learning about this last Wednesday 29 April, I wrote to the Education Minister urging her to restore access as soon as possible, and I have since written to the QASMT Principal about this.

Based on new information and my conversation with the Principal yesterday, I have written to Minister Grace again today to address various community concerns about their ongoing access to (and through) the community garden, school ovals, along Toowong Creek and along the southern side of the campus, both in the short and long term.

You're no doubt aware that the BCC Planning Scheme's Bicycle network overlay map identifies a "Secondary cycle route" along Toowong Creek adjacent to the campus, and to Vera St through the green space adjacent to the Community Garden. I've done a quick copy paste below for easy reference.

In such a hilly suburb, following the line of the creek from the Bywong St/Vera St side of the campus to Miskin St makes sense for pedestrians and cyclists alike. Unsurprisingly, the route along the creek is well used, and I wrote to the QASMT Principal in 2018 and 2019 to convey the concern of local residents about the closure of this route, which I understood to be only temporary and as a direct consequence of the construction on site.

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1/49 Station Road, Indooroopilly
Open: Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm

Contact Us
Tel: (07) 37374100
maiwar@parliament.qld.gov.au
www.michaelberkman.com.au

Just yesterday afternoon, I learned of plans to construct a fence around the entire QASMT campus, within 2-3m of the property boundary. Having reviewed the survey plan of the site (Lot 102 on CP 852773), it appears likely that the construction of this fence will permanently prevent access along this secondary cycle route.

I understand you also spoke to the Principal at QASMT yesterday, and are aware of the proposed construction of this fence.

As indicated above, I have written to the Minister at the earliest possible opportunity today about a variety of issues, including a request that this pedestrian and cycle thoroughfare is maintained.

Can you confirm as soon as possible whether you support the retention (and ideally the enhancement) of this secondary cycle route and what steps you or the Brisbane City Council have taken or are taking to engage with the Education Department or Minister Grace to make sure this happens?

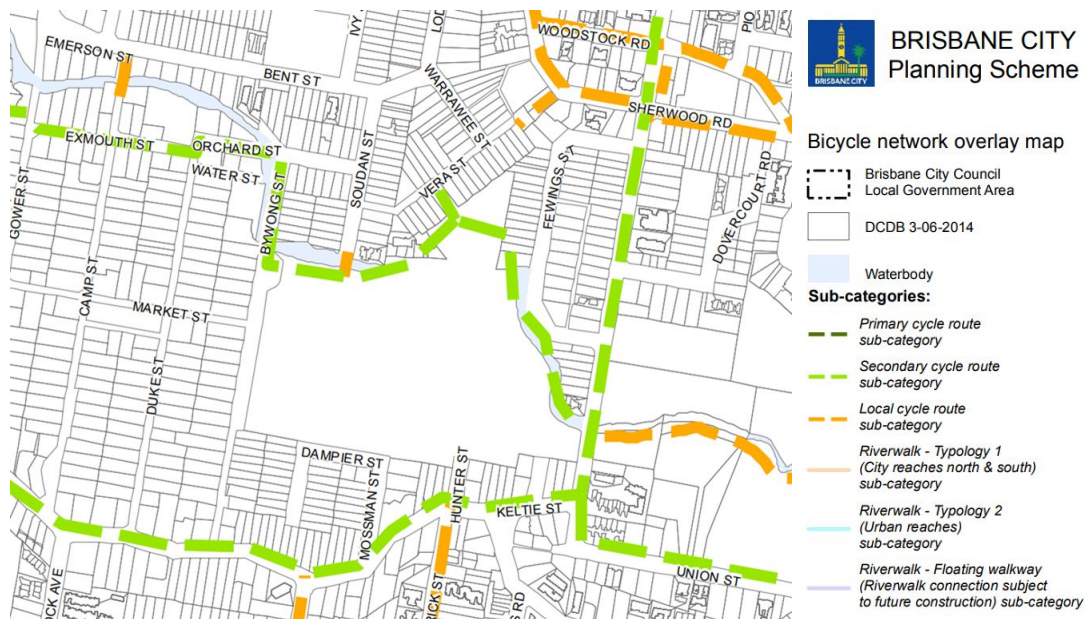
Please do not hesitate to contact my office on 3737 4100 if you would like to discuss this matter in more detail.

I look forward to your urgent response.

Kind regards,



Michael Berkman MP



Brisbane City Plan 2014: Bicycle network overlay map at QASMT site¹

¹ This map is available online at: http://docs.brisbane.qld.gov.au/City Plan/v19_00_20200501/MAPS/Overlay maps/om21/om0021-28.pdf