



Monday, 9 December 2019

Adrian Schrinner, Lord Mayor
Office of the Lord Mayor
Brisbane City Council

Via email to: lordmayor@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Dear Lord Mayor

Kurilpa Futures is keen to have an ongoing dialogue with Council regarding the two proposed bridges in West End and we thank you for your response to previous correspondence of 15th August 2019. It confirmed commitment to consultation on the bridges and provided responses to our concerns about design and management of local impacts and we commend you for this response.

However, we have remaining concerns regarding the short consultation times especially in the lead up to the busy Christmas season. The timeframe for the delivery of the bridges is at least a decade (although a time frame is not mentioned in the promotional video) and so there is no need for such a short consultation. As a consequence of this abbreviated consultation, Kurilpa Futures requests that Council adopts an on-going feedback and response process throughout the project. This is in keeping with these projects being major capital expenditure with significant impact on existing communities.

Kurilpa Futures is aware there is confusion as to whether the proposed bridges are Ped/Bike Green Bridges or Bus/Ped/Bike Green Bridges. Council's definition of a Green Bridge is Bus/Ped/Bike. Initially information on the website and in the media indicated they were Bus/Ped/Bike bridges. The on-line survey states the Toowong to West End and the West End to St Lucia bridges "will cater for pedestrians and cyclists, and potentially public transport pending community consultation and traffic studies".

Your correspondence to Kurilpa Futures, dated 5th September, also states that buses are being considered. The rationale for, the cost and the impacts of a bridge carrying buses is completely different to a Ped/Bike bridge. Council needs to be more transparent with its intentions.

The recently released State Government's South Brisbane Transport and Mobility Study Report is clear. It refers to Pedestrian and Cycle Bridges and states:

“Responses

5a Investigate new strategic active transport crossing of the Brisbane River, including new pedestrian and cyclists connections between West End and Toowong, and West End and St Lucia.

5b Planning and decision-making for supporting public transport (ferry and bus) infrastructure and services as well as cycle infrastructure to maximise connectivity of the green bridges as part of a well-integrated transport system.”

Kurilpa Futures requests that the Council makes a definitive call to exclude buses so that the feedback on the proposed bridges as Ped/Bike bridges is clear and not influenced by the possibility of buses being included.

The remainder of this submission is predicated on the bridges being Ped/Bike bridges.

Our concerns remain:

1. No rationale for the two bridges has been provided. The discussion is about the location of bridges without any information on the active transport network upgrades of which the bridges are a component.

There is no information on the need for a Ped/Bike bridge at the nominated locations. There are no existing or future active transport figures for the peninsula.

Kurilpa Futures supports investigating alternative strategies such as:

- cross river ferry services at the same locations that are specifically designed for short, quick river crossings for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Maximising the benefit of the Eleanor Schonell Bridge and busway infrastructure rather than the Boundary/Keith Streets bridge.

2. It is understood that the plans are the initial scoping for the five (Ped/Bike) bridges however the associated indicative upgrades in the public transport network, including the proposed Ferry Road City Cat terminal, and bicycle network should be included in this consultation. The bridges are only part of this major transport project. In fact, the network upgrade should dictate the bridges rather than this “let’s build a bridge and sort out the network later” approach.

As consultation and further studies proceed, the indicative plans should show:

- The extent of loss of parkland
- Acquisition of properties
- Location of bus stop or terminus and changes to existing infrastructure
- The extent of retaining walls or any other impact on residential or public property including the Playhouse Childcare Centre and the heritage Sorry Site in Orleigh Park
- Parking impacts on adjacent streets

- Road widenings including Dornoch Terrace bridge over Boundary Street, Forbes Street or Montague Road.
3. There is no information regarding the business case for the two bridges in West End. Kurilpa Futures request this is provided to the community including indicative costs as soon as possible.
 4. The logistics of the landing of the bridges on the lower levels must be provided. The initial design for the Kurilpa Bridge was for an over water circular ramp but this was relocated to over land with the alienation of considerable parkland. Kurilpa Futures would not support this design solution for the proposed bridges. We were told at one of the information sessions that the bridges might be V shaped to achieve the length for the grades for the height of the bridge. This design would not be supported as it would be very intrusive and spoil the visual amenity of the Brisbane River.
 5. The parkland on the bend of the River is one of the few tranquil spaces in the Kurilpa peninsula. The heritage place is part of that tranquillity. The Boundary Street riverside park is a similar space. The loss of these spaces is significant and if these bridges go ahead new riverside parkland double in the size of the area lost must be provided to compensate.
 6. The tree planting plans for these projects must be included so residents are aware of the extent of canopy cover and shade to be delivered to the bridge environs.

Kurilpa Futures provides these comments in the spirit of supporting a meaningful, collaborative and ongoing engagement with Council regarding the proposed bridges. We seek a meeting with the green bridge team in order to discuss the issues raised and ask that it is held as soon as convenient following the Christmas holiday break.

Yours sincerely



Pam Bourke
On behalf of Kurilpa Futures

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Cc
The Honourable Jackie Trad, Deputy Premier and member for South Brisbane
Councillor Jonathan Sri Councillor for the Gabba Ward