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Sent: Tuesday, 25 March 2014 1:42 PM
To: LORDMAYOR@brisbane.qld.gov.au
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Subject: Lord Mayor and Civic Cabinet Listen forum - Improving the safety in the Stuartholme and Scenic Drive area of Brisbane
Attachments: BrisbaneTownPlanSubmission-Best-3ssgdToowongJuly2013.pdf
Importance: High

Dear Lord Mayor,

Please find attached our 2013 town plan submission for which we got absolutely zero response from the Brisbane City Council.

We went to considerable effort to compile this document and also speak to relevant residents. It refers to the areas of Sir Samuel Griffith Drive (SSGD) and Scenic Drive (SD).

Our reason for creating this email is so that the Lord Mayor can have a chance to read our material before the meeting.

- We want to improve the general safety of what is one of Brisbane's most important tourist hotspots, it also contains important new bikeways and of course the famous Stuartholme Girls School.
- We wish to attend the Listen Forum on Wednesday 26th March to discuss the contents and in particular the issue of street lighting on SSGD adjacent to Stuartholme plus on SD.

Stuartholme Girls School on SSGD.

- This is the home of Brisbane's most highly regarded teachers and clever students, however their property on SSGD lacks entirely any street lighting.
- This area on SSGD is profoundly dark as night because it is contained between two hills, Mt Coot-tha itself and the main Stuartholme school hill.
- The roadway contains several electricity poles, the majority of which already contain 240V power and the provision of lighting on those poles would not be expensive.
- Without lighting we rate the danger level of this area to be extremely high, whilst the female students and other users are extremely precious.

Scenic Drive.

- This one of Brisbane's Major Tourist hotspots however it has absolutely no street lighting.
- There is lighting on SSGD all the way up to the lookout and Kiosk but not on SD, plus the Legacy Way car park is strongly lit at night.
- There used to be a route up to the lookout that always had street lighting, however this was made one-way and is now closed to all traffic.
- Scenic Drive has an important cycle lane and recently a 1 million project at the Mt Cot-tha road intersection spent considerable effort to enhance the cycle usage.
- Further work on Mt Coot-tha road bikeway is currently proposed.
- However there is zero capability to use the hill area after dark (what everybody wants).
- The Council has effectively removed the previously existing capability of having street lighting up to the Lookout.
- There may be some concern about viewing street lighting on the lookout, however this already exists and SD is barely above the horizon so lights there would never be noticed.

- If LED lights were installed the electricity consumption would be minimal, plus there are lots of inexpensive Solar Electric PV–driven street lighting systems now.

Night time Hooning and other Illegal Activity.

- At night this area is a profoundly bad zone for hoon activity and blatant speed limit offences.
- The police cannot enforce this activity because the area is extremely dark and vehicles are almost impossible to see.
- On SSGD it is dark because of the hills and on SD the city glow shines in your eyes making it difficult to see road objects.
- The area is one of Qld Police's main Intel areas in Queensland and the fact that it was used as a hill climb circuit increases the hooning.

Council Responses on this issue.

- I have wasted many hours of my time typing emails and trying to liaise with council and government officers.
- The current situation is that lighting cannot be installed on SSGD and SD because they are classed as Rural Roads, and as such they do not qualify for street lighting.
- However the Brisbane vehicle traffic count is in the region of 5000 cars every day and many of these are at night.
- At event times when there are visible fireworks, the number of vehicles increases to well over 100,000.

Our perspective.

- My profession is an Electrical Engineer – I am extremely busy and cannot afford any wasted time.
- However, we believe that at night it is a dangerous place for any cyclist or pedestrian, let alone a school girl.
- We do not want to have a personal safety incident here.
- Almost every night Thursday through to Sunday we are woken up by hooning motorists - It is like a baby that never learns to sleep through the night.
- Unless the Brisbane City Council provides street lighting in these areas, the police cannot control the zone and the constant blatant illegal activity will continue forever.

Yours sincerely,

Phil & Denisse Best

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