



C a m p b e l l N e w m a n

Lord Mayor

MEDIA RELEASE

Lord Mayor announces public bike hire scheme

FREE bike rides could become commonplace in Brisbane, under a proposal by Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman.

Public bike hire schemes are already in operation in major European cities and Cr Newman said it was time the concept was explored in Brisbane.

“As we move forward, I see bicycles playing a larger part in our efforts to deal with traffic congestion,” he said.

“Cycling is not only an easy way to get around, it’s also a healthy alternative that doesn’t create any greenhouse gases.”

Cr Newman said a number of automated bike stations would be installed across the city centre where commuters and tourists could quickly and easily hire a bike using a swipe card.

He said in the European schemes an initial period of hire was free of charge.

“These sorts of schemes are great for quick journeys across town,” Cr Newman said.

The Lord Mayor said that public bike schemes reduced demand on both roads and public transport systems in other cities around the world.

“In the French city of Lyon, a system was introduced with 2,000 bicycles located in racks across the city,” he said.

“Within the first six months of operation 2 million trips had been made which replaced around 150,000 car trips.”

Cr Newman said the scheme would be attractive to tourists, along with people who just wanted to get across town.

“Huge investments have been made in our bikeway network, and the City Centre Master Plan I have previously released shows we’re making the city more ped and bike friendly,” he said.

“I see a future where you’ll just grab a bike to get across town to your meeting in South Brisbane and where tourists use bikes to travel along the river and see what this beautiful city has to offer.

“I hope that once people see how easy it is to get around the city by bike they’ll start thinking about using the car less for those quick trips down to the shops and other short journeys.”

Footage of the Paris scheme can be found on *youtube* at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUYfdBdQVuE> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWj7N5Gai3w>

Interest from service providers has already been received and Cr Newman will soon call for expressions of interest.

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