



FEEDBACK ON THE COPENHAGEN LANE FROM CBUG

The general feeling at our monthly meeting is that any move by the Department of Transport and Main Roads or the Cairns Regional Council to improve our cycling infrastructure deserves encouragement.

However, we also feel, for reasons that are outlined later, that the Copenhagen Lane will fail "...to improve connectivity and safety for cyclists who ride along on one of Cairns' busiest roads".

To gauge public opinion, interviews were carried out with persons who work next to the new lane on Monday the 12th of April, 2010.

Two questions were asked:

Q1 - How often does the Copenhagen Lane get used?

Q2 - Has the new lane affected your business?

The results are as follows:

Karma House & Home Phone 4031 8500

Q1 - No, never, the cyclists either use the footpath or the bikeway beside the traffic.

Q2 - Our business has been affected by the new lane because of a loss of parking space. We hate it.

Cash Stop Phone 1300 721 001

Q1 - Never noticed any cyclist use it.

Q2 - No affect upon our business.

Godfreys Phone 4041 1345

Q1 - Haven't seen a cyclist use it. They use the road though.

Q2 - Shopping is not affected.

Replicars Phone 4031 3110

Q1 - No, the lane is not being used by cyclists.

Q2 - It has affected our business because there is less car space out the front. If they can't see spaces straight away, they just drive by.

Why are cyclists not using it?



#1....The lane is narrow and low making it difficult for cyclists and motorists to clearly see each other. Therefore the possibility of collision between persons leaving their parked cars to go to the shops and cyclists riding on the lane would worry some cyclists.

#2....The cyclist would almost always prefer the footpath rather than the lane because of the awning above the footpath for part of the way, which provides shelter from sun and rain.

#3....If a cyclist wishes to go from the DFO to the Tills Street traffic lights, then they may choose to get there by a quieter route. That is, go through the DFO's entry/exit point in the western carpark, then ride down Earl Street towards Tills Street then turn left towards the traffic lights.

#4....Cyclists wishing to travel longer distances along Mulgrave Road will not bother with this lane.

Varley Street, Yorkeys Knob



An example of a "Copenhagen Lane" that has been used for probably 20 years or so is the cycleway in Varley Street. Anticdotal evidence suggests that it is not popular with the locals. One reason put forward is that the cycleway is too low and narrow. A suggestion is that the bike lane should be of the same height as the footpath.

Do cyclists need to use Mulgrave Road anyway?



Attached is a PDF file called "City Earlvile Bikeway". This bikeway can service a large suburban area, and the infrastructure is already in place. However, upgrading parts of the bikeway is required. For example, the footbridge over the canal at the end of Givens Street has not been in use for at least two years. Also, cycling along Mann Street, which is quite popular, can be hazardous between Brown and Aumuller Streets because of the number eight Sunbus. There is little room for a bus to overtake a cyclist.

In this report, CBUG realizes that the TMR and CRC have different responsibilities in their attempts to accommodate the needs of cyclists in Cairns. In this case, the TMR is responsible for new constructions along Mulgrave Road and the CRC, for maintenance of lesser roads and bikeways.

What CBUG is hoping for, however, is for a more collaborative effort between both parties to help improve the safety of cyclists in Cairns.

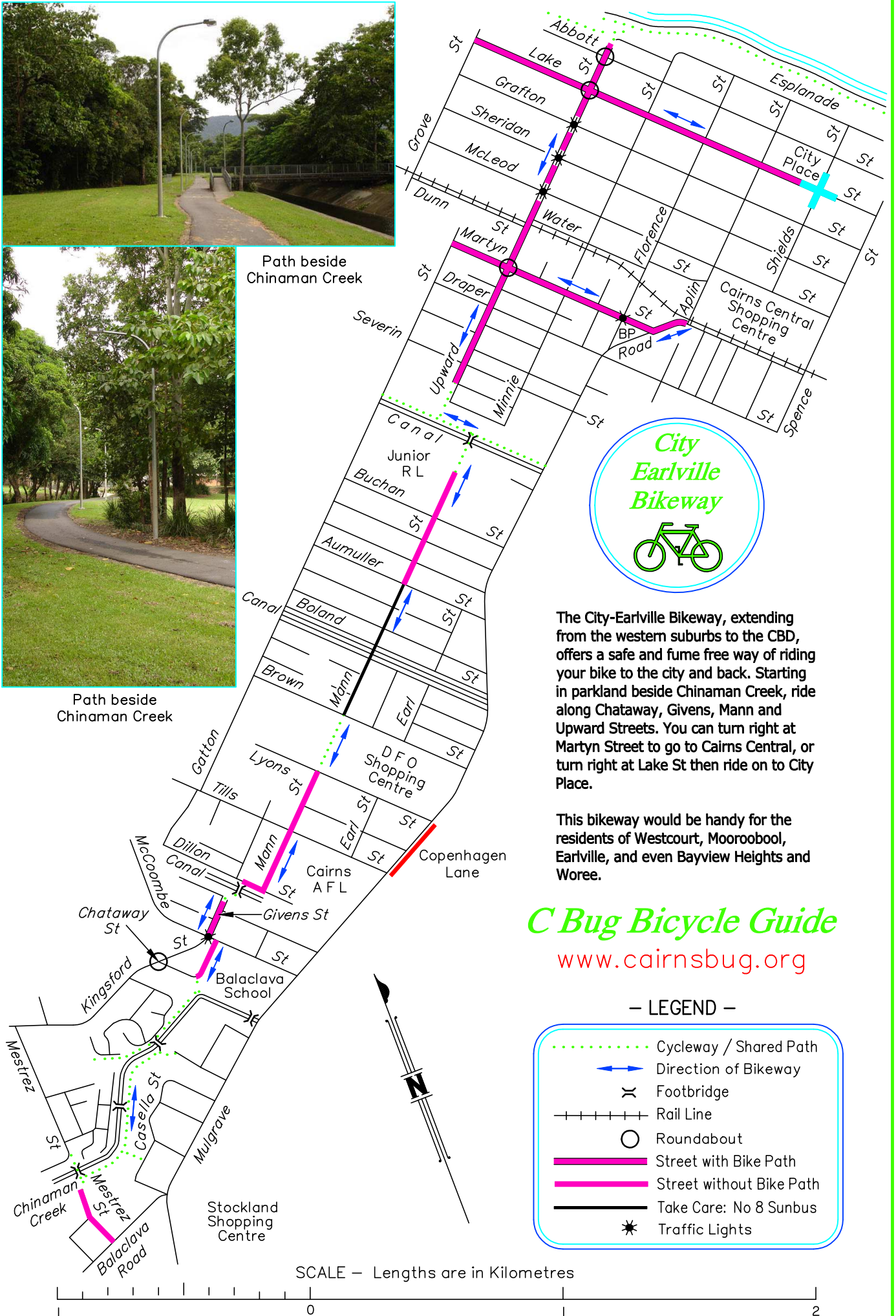
Cheers Trevor Hardwick of CBUG.



Path beside Chinaman Creek



Path beside Chinaman Creek



The City-Earlville Bikeway, extending from the western suburbs to the CBD, offers a safe and fume free way of riding your bike to the city and back. Starting in parkland beside Chinaman Creek, ride along Chataway, Givens, Mann and Upward Streets. You can turn right at Martyn Street to go to Cairns Central, or turn right at Lake St then ride on to City Place.

This bikeway would be handy for the residents of Westcourt, Mooroolool, Earlville, and even Bayview Heights and Woree.

C Bug Bicycle Guide

www.cairnsbug.org

— LEGEND —

- Cycleway / Shared Path
- Direction of Bikeway
- X Footbridge
- Rail Line
- Roundabout
- Street with Bike Path
- Street without Bike Path
- Take Care: No 8 Sunbus
- ★ Traffic Lights

SCALE — Lengths are in Kilometres

