

media release



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SOUTH BANK BUSINESS ASSOCIATION APPLAUDS VICTORIA BRIDGE PROJECT

Brisbane's fastest growing business group, the South Bank Business Association (SBBA) applauds the draft Brisbane City Centre Master Plan launched by the Lord Mayor Campbell Newman today.

SBBA Board member Paul Hey said the City Plan recognised that the South Bank precinct is now part of the City.

"For the first time the Council has taken the bold step of joining the two halves of the City with Victoria Bridge acknowledged as the major priority of the Plan," Mr Hey said.

"The SBBA called for priority on pedestrian cover on the Victoria Bridge last year and congratulates the Council for listening and reacting to the community and local businesses."

Mr Hey said the Association's research on the Victoria Bridge in November 2003 revealed that 75% of people crossing the bridge supported a weather shade cover with 64% agreeing that this was "a good use of public funds."

"The Council has obtained recent cost estimates that cover of one side of the bridge can be achieved for \$2.2 million. The Association is calling for funding for the cover to go into the next Council budget as the first step to improvements to this important access route," Mr Hey said.

"The roll out of the Plan will provide enormous community and economic benefits for Brisbane. Specifically for the South Bank precinct as Brisbane's arts, cultural and educational centre it will mean continued growth with more people and businesses attracted across the river resulting in new jobs being created."

The Association had previously voiced that the North Bank Plan is too conservative and should be more adventurous. "We only have one chance to get it right and we ask that the State Government takes on board the comments from the City Plan to ensure that we get the best solution for the people of Brisbane," Mr Hey said.

The SBBA represents more than 80 organisations and businesses in the South Bank Precinct and actively lobbies government on development and planning projects.

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