



Business Sydney's Paul Nicolaou in front of the Theatre Royal.

Bike lane's a Royal pain for theatregoers

Jessica McSweeney

THEATRE Royal in the CBD plays host to smash-hit musical productions – but you'll have to dodge cyclists to get in.

A bike lane installed on the theatre side of King St has caused a headache for the theatre, with pedestrians tripping over the divider, and for cabbies who say they can't safely stop to drop off patrons.

Theatre manager Hour

Tapiki said there had even been some injuries.

"We are concerned about everyone's safety, the theatregoers, bike riders' safety, pedestrians and cars coming out of the carpark," she said. "We have found a couple of instances of people falling over and were injured due to the ledge that divides the bike lane and the road.

"It's a grey colour that blends in with the road.

"We've had to administer first aid and help them."

The bike lane also crosses a steep driveway to an underground carpark, making it tricky for exiting drivers.

For cabbies a show is often a great place to find customers, but with a no-stopping zone on the other side of the road there is nowhere to safely pick up and drop off.

"Particularly for elderly passengers, those with disability or

mobility issues, we need to make it as easy as we can to access transport," NSW Taxi Council deputy chief executive Nick Abraham said.

While the NSW Taxi Council has suggested changing the bike lane to become a taxi rank in the evenings, both Ms Tapiki and Business Sydney executive director Paul Nicolaou say the only option is for the council to move the bike lane to the other side of King St.