

Living Streets Aotearoa



Submission

This submission is made on behalf of Living Streets Aotearoa.

Living Streets Aotearoa was formed in 2002 and is New Zealand's national pedestrian advocacy organisation. Our aim is to get more people walking more often – for shopping, getting to work or school, visiting friends and family, for exercise and for leisure. For this to happen we need a safe walking environment for all users. Pedestrians are as diverse as our population and include people of all ages and abilities. Everyone is a pedestrian, whatever other modes of transport they may also use. Walking is particularly important for children and the elderly, as well as for people who have a disability. It also has significant health, wellbeing and economic benefits for people individually and for society.

Living Streets Aotearoa supports Te Ara Tipuna and sees projects like these as an essential part of creating safe accessible walking opportunities that promote healthy lifestyles, connection to place, and environmental stewardship. We know about the benefits that walking brings to health and well-being and increasingly research is demonstrating the particular benefits of walking in nature. Opportunities to connect with cultural history and engage with local communities also bring many additional benefits. Projects like Te Ara Tipuna create opportunities for communities to come together to support local initiatives, share knowledge, and enhance their environments. Living Streets Aotearoa recognises that walking infrastructure isn't just about transportation—it's about building stronger, more connected communities

www.livingstreets.org.nz