

Living Streets Aotearoa



Submission from Living Streets Aotearoa - Wellington Wellington Amalgamation Proposal

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Submission

Living Streets Aotearoa does not support the proposal to change the local government structure in Wellington. We ask that a binding poll be taken before any decision is made.

Walkability should be encouraged in every urban area and between urban areas. This requires plans and actions at different levels of local government such as we have now.

The reasons for our opposition are that it is necessary for separate agencies to provide a check on the work of each other, which will not be possible if there is only one agency. This accountability with two levels of local government provide the means to monitor and encourage progress on walk plans and integrated transport plans and activity.

We do not believe that this proposal will support a more walkable community and do not see any good reasons put forward for change. Walking developments do not require large investments and can be accommodated within smaller and existing council arrangements. The consultation and debate on this proposal has been lacking.

Wellington geography naturally identifies several well defined city areas that have particular walking requirements. Currently these are well represented with the local council structure.

The proposal to break Wellington into three local boards would see more political divisions and some of the effort to provide consistent levels of service for pedestrians will be lost.

We would like to be heard in support of our submission.

About Living Streets

Living Streets Aotearoa is New Zealand's national walking and pedestrian organisation, providing a positive voice for people on foot and working to promote walking friendly planning and development around the country. Our vision is "More people choosing to walk more often and enjoying public places".

The objectives of Living Streets Aotearoa are:

- to promote walking as a healthy, environmentally-friendly and universal means of transport and recreation
- to promote the social and economic benefits of pedestrian-friendly communities
- to work for improved access and conditions for walkers, pedestrians and runners including walking surfaces, traffic flows, speed and safety
- to advocate for greater representation of pedestrian concerns in national, regional and urban land use and transport planning.

For more information, please see: www.livingstreets.org.nz