

16 August 2020

For the 2020 election we are canvassing your party's responses to a set of questions about walking.

Walking has so many benefits, from the physical and mental health ones, through the economic ones resulting from walkers spending more money locally, to the congestion and greenhouse gas emissions reduction ones. It has such potential to increase individual, community and global wellbeing. But these benefits will only be achieved in New Zealand if walkers are given a fair go by being provided with safe and comfortable infrastructure, suitable rules, and appropriate status.

Would you please indicate whether you

*commit very strongly, commit strongly, oppose, oppose strongly* to make the 7 actions listed below happen during the coming term of government and email your answers to me by Friday 28th August, 2020?

1. Ensure footpaths are safe for pedestrians of all ages and abilities by providing separate lanes for e-scooters and bicycles and keeping these vehicles off footpaths.

2. Provide a meaningful deterrent to parking motor vehicles on footpaths by increasing the fine from the current \$40.

3. Require NZTA and MoT to employ pedestrian specialists, as they have for cycling, to give people on foot and in wheelchairs the priority they deserve.

4. Support Living Streets proposal to have at least 50% of children and adolescents walking to school by 2025. (see our multi-point plan of action to achieve this https://www.livingstreets.org.nz/node/5047)

5. Build infrastructure such as Skypath, the Great Harbour Way and others that benefit pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

6. Implement policies that encourage walking by increasing perceived safety and amenity for pedestrians, such as slower vehicle speed limits.

7. Require councils to adopt policies to prevent car-dependent urban sprawl.

Thank you.

Andy Smith President Living Streets Aotearoa andy.smith@livingstreets.org.nz Phone 021474740