



Welcome to our first eBulletin from Living Streets Aotearoa for 2022

This is a summary of events and stories of us striving to get more people walking and enjoying public spaces be they young or old, fast or slow, whether walking, sitting, commuting, shopping, between appointments, or out on the streets for exercise, exploration, for leisure or for pleasure.

LSA news

Living Streets Aotearoa has launched a call for a cross-government national **Walking Strategy** to significantly improve conditions for pedestrians. Walking can contribute a lot for health, climate and community and we need a coordinated way to do that.

Check out the [call for action here](#) and ask your MPs and local councillors to support more walking more often for all of us.

Our biennial **Golden Foot Walking Awards** will again be an online event this year. These Awards recognise positive actions to improve and support walking and pedestrians. Keep an eye out for the nomination form next month.

Living Streets legal action against NZTA and Auckland Council for enabling **e-scooters** to be used on footpaths in the city continues on its course to a High Court hearing. Our position remains keep footpaths for feet including mobility aids, and ensure that escooters and all vehicles have a safe space sharing the roadway! Not such a radical thought.

Living Streets is continuing our campaign to highlight that [footpath parking is illegal](#). Yes everywhere in New Zealand parking vehicles on footpaths is not permitted. Some local councils such as Wellington City Council took a decision to enforce the NZ Road Rules on this matter in a consistent way – well done WCC. We want to see all councils follow this lead, and have easy processes in place for people to report this anti-social behaviour – parking on footpaths puts others at risk! Children, people using wheelchairs and pushchairs, those with vision impairments and all of us find it hard to get past vehicles parked on footpaths.

LSA advocacy in action around the country:

Wellington Living Streets members took part in **Park(ing) Day** in early March. This is part of the international Park(ing) Day movement where a car park is repurposed. Our Covid Space Walk 'park' looked at the new found awareness of how close we come to others and how difficult it is to communicate through masks and over wider spaces. The conclusion from all of us – it was fun. Thanks to Wellington Sculpture Trust who make this day possible. Also check out other images of Parking Day, the Judges Choice Award 'Camp Curious' is so colourful.



Transmission Gully **walking routes** retained

Wellington Living Streets was involved a long time ago in trying to retain some of the walking routes that cross the new Transmission Gully motorway and agreement was reached for some underpasses. It's good to see that at least some of these are included – time to get out for a walk and check them out.

[Here is a link](#)

Let's Get Wellington Moving

In Wellington the first LGWM projects have been ones to improve basic pedestrian infrastructure at intersections – [LGWM](#) got the priorities right here! As you would expect Living Streets has been significantly involved with LGWM. Wellingtonians are looking forward to see more transformed people friendly places that are great for the large numbers of walkers as the project progresses.

Auckland Climate Action Targeted Rate (CATR)

Auckland CATR is proposed to deliver a \$1 billion ring-fenced climate action package over 10 years for Auckland, providing additional funding for public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure and urban ngahere (forests). Walk Auckland/Living Streets made a submission supporting the \$84 million allocated to improve walking connections, particularly in areas of social deprivation.

Auckland Parking Strategy

The next big issue in Auckland is the draft [Parking Strategy](#) which will reduce parking on Auckland's busy streets and free up space for bus lanes, cycle lanes and wider footpaths. Aucklanders can bookmark [AT/Haveyoursay](#) to keep up with opportunities to provide feedback on transport issues across the region.

New Zealand news

Emissions Reduction Plan

In May at the same time as Budget 2022, the Government is due to release its Emissions Reduction Plan. Transport was the best-developed area of the draft Plan, and if the Government follows through, we can expect to see good news for walking. The draft plan included the development of a national Walking Strategy - which Living Streets Aotearoa is calling for. Measures need to be taken at regional and local level to increase the proportion of walking trips which among its many other benefits is a very low-carbon way of getting around.

A strong Emissions Reduction Plan would be great news, but the best plan is nothing without funding and implementation. We'll be working to ensure that Government transport policy and funding arrangements are changed to reflect these emissions reduction goals, and that the Government gets serious about measuring, funding and promoting walking on safe, separated footpaths.

Auckland's new **Devonport-Takapuna Green route road crossing**

Take a close look at this road sign near a new pedestrian and cycle crossing in Auckland. It really does say cars and other traffic Give Way! Good one Auckland Transport.

These shared crossings seem to be turning up in many places and need to be consistent across the country in approach and logic in design for legibility, accessibility, and safety for all. Have you used one? Do they work for your walk?



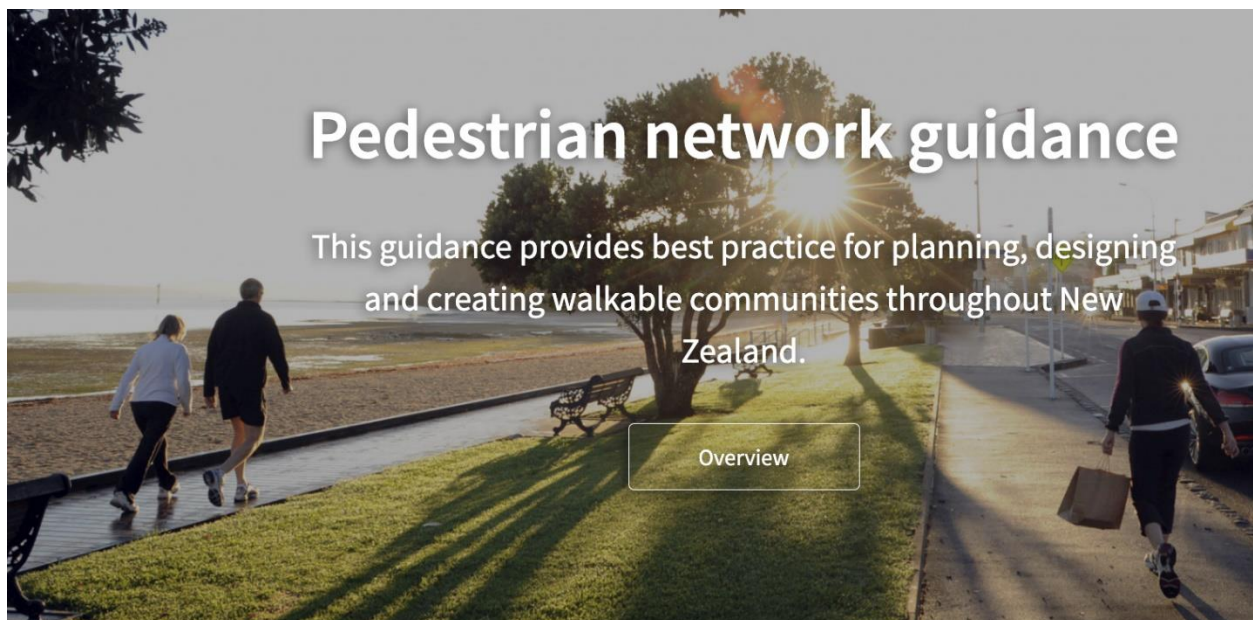
EECA support for walking

Good one EECA for leading government efforts to promote walking as a way to take action on climate change. With a national Walking Strategy, we would expect to see many government agencies take note of the important role of walking.



Pedestrian Network Guidance (PNG)

Have you checked out the PNG? Waka Kotahi is looking for your feedback on it – please help them improve our national best practice guidance for all things walking and pedestrian.



One issue we hope the PNG will solve is not building any more infrastructure like this. There may be many reasons why power poles end up in the middle of footpaths . . . but it needs to be fixed!

Do you have images of examples like this to share? Contact your local council for a fix



Pete Williams negotiates his way past a power pole in the middle of a footpath on Patteson Ave in Auckland's Mission Bay.

Farce past the post as power pole gets in way

Anne Gibson

It's a post worthy of a post.

Auckland councillor Desley Simpson has taken to social media in a bid to find out why a power pole is sitting in the middle of a footpath in Mission Bay, Auckland.

"Some days I'm simply lost for words," she wrote in an online post this week.

"All the other power poles around that one are concrete and this one is wood, so what makes this different?"

She said she was putting questions to Auckland Transport which is responsible for footpaths, Vector and Chorus.

AT said the footpath had recently been widened and the pole had sat beside the footpath before the work began. "The pole was in this location before we did our works. The conclusion we arrived at during construction was that going around the pole was not a practical option," a spokesperson said yesterday.

Chorus spokesman Steve Pettigrew said something needed to be done.

"We've got a guy going to put cones around it. He'll start working out what we can do about it."

The AT spokesperson admitted it could have helped avoid the problem, saying: "In hindsight, Chorus should have been engaged to investigate the feasibility of relocating the pole during the footpath renewal."

Movin March

Whanau throughout the greater Wellington region have been out enjoying the journey to school throughout March. [Check out some of these fabulous stories](#) from children and their families – great walking kids.

Waiheke Walking Festival

Want a walking treat? How about joining the [Waiheke Walking Festival](#)

Interesting facts – have you seen the EHINZ [transport statistics pages](#). A great spot to get key facts about walking and other sustainable modes in Aotearoa.

International

Australia's Queensland Government runs a 2 day [Masterclass for Walking](#) (next Brisbane session in June 2022). Wouldn't it be great if some New Zealand professionals could participate in that? Or even better a walking masterclass is developed for the New Zealand context for transport professionals.

It's good to see research show what we already know about walk friendly towns and cities – check out this article [‘Pedestrian-friendly cities have lower rates of diabetes and obesity’](#)

A [recent webinar on Australia's National Survey of Walking and Cycling](#) showed the way toward getting some useful data on the total amount of walking occurring. We would like to be able to compare this with the same New Zealand data.

Look out for a local council election update in our next eBulletin.

How you can help Living Streets Aotearoa get more people walking more often -

1. Renew your Living Streets Aotearoa membership today (membership year begins in April. Not a member – now is a great time to [join or renew](#))
2. Spread the walking word and support pedestrians with conversations in your networks
3. Look out for opportunities to provide feedback to your local council on projects that impact walking.
4. Organise local walks that highlight issues in your area - ask your local councillor for a walk, be sure to send us some photos
5. Buy a Tshirt or bag from [our website shop](#)
6. [Donate to support our work](#)