



## **Welcome to the July 2024 e-Bulletin from Living Streets Aotearoa**

*We want 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, for leisure or for pleasure.*

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## **Final Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 includes a significant win for pedestrians**

### **Government Policy Statement on land transport 2024-34**

The final [Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024](#) has now been released. While we still have many concerns about the overall reduction in funding and the reduced priority for walking and other low-carbon transport modes compared to the previous GPS, we are very pleased by one significant change between the draft and final GPS.

The Minister has added an instruction in the final GPS that 25% of the Walking & Cycling Improvements activity class should be spent on footpaths and other walking projects.

[Read more about what this means for pedestrians.](#)

## Safer speeds save lives. Submit on the draft Setting of Speed Limits Rule by Thursday 11 July



The Government has released its draft Setting of Speed Limits Rule, which rolls back many of the changes made under the previous Government that were designed to make our roads safer for everyone by reducing vehicle speeds. We know that slower vehicle speeds save the lives of pedestrians, so this move is disappointing. [Read this article about the impact expected in Auckland alone.](#)

However, there are measures in the draft Rules that could be strengthened to make them more effective, and so we encourage all our members and supporters to submit on the consultation. It closes on Thursday 11 July. [Here is information about the consultation.](#)

If your submission is based on your experience as a pedestrian where you live, or the experience of pedestrians in your region, that's likely to be effective.

[Read more, including a guide on how to submit.](#)

## Impressive range of nominations for Golden Foot Walking Awards



What a fabulous collection of nominations for the Golden Foot Walking Awards! We have received nominations about community projects, walking groups, council initiatives, schools and individuals.

Well done and thank you to everyone who submitted a nomination. Good luck to all the nominees of these worthwhile activities.

Judging of entries is now underway. The winners will be announced at the awards event at Parliament on Tuesday 23 July.

## Sandwich boards on footpaths - Nelson City is consulting with the public

A news item on the Stuff website caught our eye recently - "[Sandwich board ban on menu for Nelson.](#)" It reported that Nelson City Council will consult with the public about controlling the use of sandwich boards on Nelson streets. It was great to see many positive comments about removing clutter on footpaths, making them safer for pedestrians.

We asked Nelson City Councillor Rachel Sanson to tell us more:

"When Nelson City Council last reviewed the Urban Environments Bylaw in 2021, we had a number of compelling submissions raising concerns about obstruction of public space in the city centre, namely footpaths, from sandwich boards and head-high flags/banners. The city does have guidelines around how many are permitted, and where they should be placed, but these are not always followed. The negative impact for pedestrians, particularly those who are blind low vision or with mobility challenges, can be significant. However, as we had not initially consulted on the removal of 'sandwich boards' from public spaces/footpaths, Council felt it was unable to consider this option.

The bylaw has come up for review again this year, and noting prior submissions focused on accessibility concerns, Council decided to consult on the option of removing sandwich boards. There have been a range of submissions on the issue. These will be considered and bylaw changes decided upon next week, 13 July. Watch this space!" *Rachel Sanson, Nelson City Councillor.*

Submissions close Wednesday 10 July. [Find out more here.](#)

### **In case you missed it...News from the past month**

- [Raised pedestrian crossings: hearing the voice of vulnerable pedestrians](#): A compelling article about how and why raised pedestrian crossings are a vital accessibility device. The writer, Vivian Naylor from CCS Disability Action has been advocating and working to improve accessibility for people living with disabilities for more than 40 years.
- [EVs twice as likely to hit pedestrians, study](#): Electric vehicles can present a safety issue for pedestrians because they produce minimal noise, making them harder for pedestrians to detect. Some car manufacturers are applying technology which will help with this, including automatic detection of pedestrians, braking to avoid a crash, or warning the driver.
- [Aranui streets to be permanently improved](#): A safety win for pedestrians in Aranui, Christchurch, with improvements made to local streets - including raised pedestrian crossings, platforms and speed humps near schools.

### **Join Living Streets Aotearoa**

Your membership helps us continue to be a credible voice for pedestrian issues, working to make our cities and towns more liveable.

As a member, you'll be informed about events and other activities of Living Streets Aotearoa, including ways to get involved and help us to influence decisions relevant to pedestrians. Members receive a discount on the registration fee for our biennial Walking Summit.

[Find out more about joining Living Streets Aotearoa](#)

## Ways to connect with Living Streets Aotearoa



## ABOUT LIVING STREETS AOTEAROA

Living Streets Aotearoa is the national organisation promoting walking-friendly communities. You can find out more about us at [www.livingstreets.org.nz](http://www.livingstreets.org.nz).

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