



May 2023 eBulletin

Walking Summit a step towards a more walkable future

This year's Walking Summit brings together people from across Aotearoa to discuss how we can make the places we live more walkable, livable, and sustainable.

As well as exploring ways to reduce emissions, increase resilience in the face of climate change and create more inclusive streets, the Summit will celebrate those who are removing barriers to walking in their communities.

Held in Christchurch for the first time, the Walking Summit will take place on 24–25 July, with an impressive programme of speakers, workshops, and discussions. [Register now!](#)

Minister of Transport Hon Michael Wood will give a keynote address, we'll hear the latest on the new National Walking Plan, and a series of experts, leaders, and change-makers will share their insights on how to create walking-friendly spaces.

Attendees will hear about the development of New Zealand's first National Walking Plan from the people who are leading it. Also, speakers including Professor Simon Kingham and Dr Shanthi Ameratunga will share their research on creating inclusive streets. Waka Kotahi and local government representatives will provide their insights on what's coming up in the policy space, and attendees will be inspired by the amazing mahi undertaken by Living Streets Aotearoa Golden Foot winner Colin Meurk and Walking Festival director Jacqui Miller.

Join the discussion either in person or virtually and walk confidently into the future. [Register now.](#)

Please contact WalkingSummit@livingstreets.org.nz if you have any questions. The draft programme is coming very soon - watch out for that mailout!



Footpath parking doesn't give pedestrians a fair go

Parking on the footpath is illegal and dangerous, yet many drivers keep doing it, acting as if they can leave their cars, trucks and vans wherever they like.

We've been campaigning against this inconsiderate practice for years. Now TVNZ's Fair Go has come to the party, [covering the issue](#) on its 29 May edition. It was great to see the presenters waving our [Yellow Feet](#) around!

We've recently reprinted our [Yellow Feet](#) ([order here](#)) which you can place under the windscreen of offending vehicles to let drivers know parking on the footpath just isn't on. They're free, so please let us know if you need some - we can send you a batch of approx. 50 or 100 if you let us know your postal address.

Let's get vehicles out of pedestrian spaces.



[Order yellow feet](#)

Oversize vehicles: your response

The [article from the April eBulletin](#) on the threat oversize "light" vehicles such as SUVs and double-cab utes pose to pedestrians got a strong response from members who share these concerns - thanks to everyone who responded! Here's the latest developments:

- LSA Executive Council member Chris Teo-Sherrell is leading LSA policy development on the issue, focusing on the effect of oversize vehicles on pedestrians, the impact they're having on efforts to make cities pedestrian-friendly, and what we should propose to limit the damage they're causing without preventing legitimate uses. Contact Chris at oversizevehicles@livingstreets.org.nz.
- Journalist Diana Clement has published her article [The case to ban SUVs](#), which quotes LSA on harm to pedestrians and looks at all the harms these vehicles cause, including both more greenhouse gas emissions, and more particulate emissions. It's well worth reading.

- On a closely related topic, Te Manatū Waka - Ministry of Transport is [currently consulting on a proposal](#) that new and used vehicles imported into Aotearoa New Zealand meet stronger exhaust emission standards. Submissions close on 22 June, and there are online info sessions leading up to this.

As the [End Urban SUVs](#) group notes, SUV imports increased 700% between 2009 and 2021. This won't be an easy campaign to win, but it's time the trend to larger and larger metal boxes dominating our cities was brought to an end.

Climate Change Commission recognises walking's role in emissions reductions in latest draft advice

The Climate Change Commission's draft advice to Government in relation to passenger transport for the first Emissions Reduction Period (2022-25) was heavily focused on the transition to electric cars. In LSA's response and our meetings with the Commission, we encouraged the Commission to pay more attention to getting people out of private cars wherever possible, and to getting people walking and making our cities and towns more walkable.

So it's great to see that the [Commission's draft advice to Government for the second Emissions Reduction Period \(2026-30\)](#) recognises both the climate and health benefits of getting more people walking - and the chronic underfunding of walking and other low-carbon transport modes (see pp. 136-140).

[Submissions on the draft advice close on 20 June](#) - we encourage you to submit in favour of action and funding for walking as part of the transition to a low-carbon transport system. We'll be hearing more from the Commission in "The Climate for Walking" panel at the [Walking Summit](#).

ABOUT LIVING STREETS AOTEAROA

Living Streets Aotearoa is the national organization promoting walking-friendly communities. You can find out more about us at www.livingstreets.org.nz.

We send these occasional e-bulletins to keep you informed because we understand you have an interest in walking. You can also opt out of this and ALL future emails from us: [Please don't mail me again](#)

Living
Streets
Aotearoa
20A
Roberts
Ave



Bayswater
Auckland, 0622
New Zealand