

Living Streets Aotearoa



Submission to Wellington City Council on the proposed Newlands Rd/Wakely Rd roundabout

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit on this proposal, and our submission is as follows.

Summary

Overall we support this proposal, because as designed it enhances walkability at a location where that attribute is severely lacking.

The pedestrian environment

The Newlands Rd/Wakely Rd intersection is a significant place for people on foot. Anybody walking between Centennial Highway/Spenmoor Rd etc. area (including Lyndfield Lane Park and play area) and Newlands Rd and beyond will tend to use Wakely Rd, with the need to cross either Newlands Rd or Wakely Rd at the intersection of those roads (there is no option to cross Wakely Rd elsewhere because there is no footpath on the eastern side of the road here).

The environment is pretty grim and unwelcoming. Newlands Rd is a busy 50km/h road, with curves in both directions making sighting for people trying to cross the road at the intersection difficult; Wakely Rd is a 50km/h road, which will become busier with Spenmoor Rd developments (a large area).

There is no provision at this intersection change for pedestrians to cross either road safely – it is an unsafe, unpleasant and discouraging experience.

The location of Newlands War Memorial at the intersection is suboptimal, and we support the proposal to move it to Newlands Park.

The proposal from a pedestrian perspective

Several features of the proposal will have a positive effect on walkability, notably the speed-reduction features and the accessible crossings with central pedestrian refuges. We strongly support these measures, and suggest that they could be improved by replacing the speed bumps with crossings on kerb-level raised speed tables, further enhancing walkability.

If these measures were not put into place it would be an opportunity missed, and it would clearly be inconsistent with Council's sustainable transport hierarchy.

Conclusion

While roundabouts are often not pedestrian-friendly features, our view is that the roundabout as designed and proposed here will improve the walking environment. On that basis, we support the current proposal.

If there is an opportunity, we would like to be heard in support of this submission.

About Living Streets Aotearoa

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.