

# Living Streets Aotearoa



## Submission from Living Streets Aotearoa to Porirua City Council on Porirua long term plan 2018

Contact person: **Paula Warren**  
Email: **wellington@livingstreets.org.nz**  
Phone: **021 101 4824**  
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### Submission

Living Streets Aotearoa thanks the Council for this opportunity to submit on the long term plan. We would like to make these proposals additional to the letter sent from Living Streets on 25 March 2018.

Good pedestrian infrastructure, slower speeds, encouraged by good urban design, make towns and cities safer and more attractive and encourage visitors and residents alike to linger, enjoy and spend. Walking is people's favourite active leisure activity so better connected suburbs and parks, footpaths and reserves will be popular with residents.

We realised that Council budgets are always under pressure so Living Streets have successfully lobbied Government for a Funding Assistance Rate for footpath maintenance, this will be included in the local roads maintenance class. There is also available a Walk and cycle activity class for new initiatives to support more walkable places. Appropriate standards and design guides are available with the NZ Pedestrian Planning and Design Guide, RTS 14 for vision impaired pedestrians, and NZS 4212:2001 for accessible buildings.

Good data is the basis for good decisions. There is now an international standard for measuring walking that can assist in identifying and monitoring progress on walking initiatives  
<http://www.measuring-walking.org/>.

### Walk to school

Living Streets is concerned by the nationwide drop in the numbers of children walking to school. From 1989/90 to 2010-14 the numbers of 5 to 12 year-olds walking to school plummeted from 42% to 29% (MoT data). This is something we can take action on and a target in the long term plan to improve the walk to school mode share is important.

A school travel programme for every school in Porirua would be a step in the right direction to get students more active. Improvements in physical and mental health and alertness of students and congestion would all improve with more walking to school.

### **Safer speeds**

Living Streets would like to see a reduction in speeds outside schools to 30 km hour. We also support the reduction in speeds on all roads to an appropriate safe design speed. Speed is a key factor in reducing road crashes and the impact of those crashes reduces with lower speeds.

### **More accessible streets**

Living Streets sees the new GPS on Transport as an opportunity for Porirua to improve accessibility on footpaths. For instance ensuring all intersections have drop-down kerbs from the footpath to allow easy access for buggies and wheelchair users, and all drop-down kerbs have tactile markings for vision impaired people.

More public seating should be provided in all towns to enable those with mobility issues to walk around being part of the community with appropriate rest stops.

Better lighting for the pedestrian footpath **under the bridge** from Porirua Station to eastern Porirua

### **Good subdivision design**

**Living Streets would like to see all residential subdivisions in Porirua have footpath on both sides of the road with at least 1.8metre width.** Not sure applicable

Transmission Gully off ramp at Kenepuru - ? any issues

### **Footpath Maintenance**

The Infrastructure Plan should be adjusted to bring forward and take advantage of the expected additional funding available for footpath maintenance and development in the new GPS on Transport.

### **Supporting public transport use**

South Wairarapa has train and bus services. Promoting use of these services reduces congestion on roads and is the safest way to travel. Living Streets would like to see audits around train stations and main bus stops to see what improvements can be made e.g. more shelters and seating, wayfinding signs and maps for visitors, timetable information, minimum footpath standards to access the stops.

[Community street reviews](#) are a useful cost effective tool to identify pedestrian improvements (such as those mentioned above) undertaken by users.

We would like to be heard in support of our submission.

### **About Living Streets**

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](http://www.livingstreets.org.nz)