

Living Streets Aotearoa



Submission from Living Streets Wellington Adelaide Road: Planning for the Future

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About Living Streets

Living Streets Aotearoa (LSA) is a national organisation with a vision of “More people choosing to walk more often and enjoying public places – young and old, fast and slow, walking, sitting and standing, commuting, shopping, between appointments, for exercise, for leisure and for pleasure.”

The objectives of LSA 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 e.g. 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.

Living Streets Wellington is the local group based in the Wellington region, which is working to make city and suburban centres in the region more walking-friendly.

For more information, please see: www.livingstreets.org.nz

Submission

Adelaide Road is currently a busy area, serving as the main traffic link between the Southern suburbs and the CBD, Northern Suburbs, Hutt Valley, Porirua and Kapiti Coast. From a walking perspective, as well as for those utilising public transport, it is currently unpleasant and difficult to use at times.

Wellington City Council has identified Adelaide Road as a future growth node. There are currently a variety of businesses and organisations in this area that can be further developed, creating a community 'hub'. However, to ensure this area is also people-friendly, careful consideration must be given to the needs of pedestrians. Currently, Adelaide Road has four lanes, although one lane either side is narrowed by parking. This causes problems for buses outside of the two hours each day when the bus lane operates going north in the morning, and clearway provisions are in place going south in the evening.

The road is very congested at times with traffic; this also causes issues for pedestrians, as there is a lack of pedestrian crossing areas between the Basin Reserve and Hospital Road. Pedestrian refuges and trees planted in the middle of the road along the current painted flush median would provide a more pleasant, safe and encouraging environment for walking.

In terms of public transport, the set-back of buildings currently is useful for potential future development of light rail. Light rail should then be given right-of-way. Light rail has the opportunity to allow a greater number of people through Adelaide Road and the space to develop this is already available.

We would also suggest that pedestrian access on adjoining streets need to be improved, in line with future development plans. Access from the Adelaide Road area down through to Courtenay Place should also be more direct and easier for pedestrians, as currently it requires a number of crossings. We would like to see the presently unused middle strip between Kent and Cambridge Terraces transformed into a pleasant leafy pedestrian / cycle path

We also encourage the active use of current buildings and frontages, for example for cafes with outside seating, as well as urging that future development of housing is attractive and adds to a pleasant environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission.

Living Streets Wellington