

Living Streets Aotearoa



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Draft Annual Plan Submissions
Porirua City Council
PO Box 50218
Porirua City

Submission on the Porirua City Council Draft Annual Plan 2007/08

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on this draft strategy. Living Streets Wellington would like to speak in support of this submission if the opportunity arises.

For any further clarification the contact point is:

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Introduction

Living Streets Wellington is a branch of Living Streets Aotearoa, Inc. Formed in 2002, it is an advocacy group 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 Living Streets Aotearoa are as following:

- 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
- To advocate for greater representation of walker and pedestrian concerns in urban and regional land use, urban design and transport planning and, as appropriate, at national level
- To education national, regional and local authorities, drivers, pedestrians and others on the benefits of walking, in order to improve road safety for pedestrians
- To foster consideration for people with special mobility needs

This submission emphasises the importance of walking as both transport and recreation, as well as improving access and conditions to create pedestrian-friendly environments.

Council Activities

Living Streets Wellington supports the community (village) planning that has commenced and in particular, supports initiatives that will improve open space use and urban design initiatives that create pedestrian-friendly environments and accessible and affordable public transport systems.

Living Streets Wellington also supports several of the community outcomes as stated in the Porirua City Council's Long Term Council Community Plan 2006-16, in particular:

- The natural and physical environment is valued, clean, safe, attractive and sustainable
- A safe integrated transport system for the movement of people and goods
- A welcoming and creative City, that fosters a sense of safety, belonging and inclusion

Living Streets Wellington supports several of the proposed strategic projects for 2007/08. This includes:

- Active, Healthy and Safe Communities: The walkways and cycleways strategy will be key to ensuring a safe, accessible and pleasant environment for people to utilise for both recreation and transport around Porirua city.
- Healthy Harbour Inlet and Waterways: The Pauatahanui walkway
- A Well-Planned City: Community (village) development and Safe communities
- Te Hikoi/ Wi Neera Intersection: In particular we support improving the safety of pedestrians

Living Streets Wellington also supports the priority programme of a Transportation Strategy. The Ministry of Transport reports walking as our second most common travel mode.¹ Walking is also an important contributing mode to other forms of transport eg. public transport and even driving. It is also the only cheap and independent mode of transport for some people eg. children, those living in suburbs with limited/infrequent public transport and those without private vehicles and/or licenses. We are all pedestrians at some point and so planning needs to take this into account as a priority, rather than an adjunct. Public transport and pedestrians should be prioritised within the Transportation strategy and the following is a suggested hierarchy for road user planning:

1. people with mobility and sensory impairments
2. pedestrians
3. cyclists
4. public transport users
5. powered two wheelers
6. commercial/business users (including delivery vehicles)
7. car-borne shoppers
8. car-borne visitors
9. car-borne commuters²

1. Leisure Services

City Landscape

Living Streets Wellington supports the goal of providing and promoting a walkway and cycleway network, as well as providing open space opportunities. It is important that both the networks and the open spaces link together, as well as each of these linking with key areas of the city, such as shopping areas, public transport and recreation facilities. This would ensure an integrated city that provides multi-modal transport and recreation options to access popular destinations. We also support ongoing inspections and maintenance of existing walkways.

2. Transport

Transport Facilities

We support the intention to ensure footpaths and cycleways are maintained to an acceptable standard. However we also stress the importance of ensuring there are adequate footpaths throughout the city, as opposed to just maintaining those that currently exist.

We also support parking enforcement as a means to ensure pedestrians remain safe. In particular, we would like to suggest enforcement as a key deterrent to vehicles parking on footpaths. Such action leads to not only an inconvenience for pedestrians, but more importantly safety issues for many pedestrians, including children, elderly, those in wheelchairs or with prams and people who are visually-impaired. However we support this action alongside education initiatives.

¹ Ministry of Transport. Getting There – on foot, by cycle. A strategy to advance walking and cycling in New Zealand transport. 2005.

² Land Transport New Zealand. Pedestrian Network Planning and Facilities Design Guide. Draft 2007.

We also urge for better signage and access to Porirua Railway Station. Public transport is a vital part of ensuring access for all people and better signage would improve use.

We also support maintenance of pedestrian bridges and underpasses, as well as bus shelters, to an acceptable standard.

Summary

Living Streets Wellington supports the proposals within the Draft Annual Plan, however we would like to emphasise the importance of careful planning to prioritise walking as an essential contributing transport option and recreational activity. We would like to see Porirua City Council acknowledge walking as an integral component in its planning.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Living Streets Wellington