

Living Streets Aotearoa



Submission from Living Streets Wellington

on the draft Track Recreation Activities Policy

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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

1. *Do you support the proposed draft policy?*

In general, but it seems opening up walking tracks to cyclists has consequences the Policy, and need to be taken into account.

2. *Is there anything you feel has not been adequately covered by this policy?*

Walking and cycling have the potential to conflict, particularly on narrow tracks. Encounters can be frightening or dangerous, and be a deterrent to walkers. As more tracks are opened up to cyclists the more cyclists will assume that all tracks are open to them.

Anecdotally, there is more cycling along footpaths around the city, coinciding with the opening up of some footpaths to cyclists, and this is a trend we do not support. Unless managed very well, the risk is that cyclists will displace walkers. Designation, design and signing must all ensure that this does not happen.

3 and 4: *Should the named tracks be opened up to mountain bikers and horse riders*

Tracks should be opened to other than walkers only when a detailed assessment has concluded that the opening-up will not be a deterrent to walking use, and will not present any actual or perceived risks to walkers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft policy. We would like to make an oral submission.