

Inquiry into Environmental Infrastructure for Growing Populations



Source: Streets are for Everyone Statement

Summary

- We recommend that a key focus for the Committee's deliberations be on how to deliver environmental infrastructure that promotes and supports physical activity and healthier living.
- We recommend the Committee consider three objectives in particular when finalising its report:
 - 1) Creating high quality open spaces
 - 2) Prioritising active transport
 - 3) Investing in community infrastructure



Health and environmental infrastructure

- Heart disease is the single leading cause of death in Victoria. More than 300,000 Victorians live with heart disease and approximately 6,844 people die every year. Around 95,742 Victorians are hospitalised yearly.
- Walking for an average of 30 minutes a day can lower the risk of heart disease, stroke and diabetes by 30% to 40%.
- Where we live, work, play and learn are all key parts of our built environment and can positively or negatively impact how active we are.
- Having access to transport options (like public transport, walking and cycling) are key features that help promote equitable outcomes
- We can deliver spaces that improve Victorians' health by supporting healthier lifestyles by:
 - 1. Creating high quality open spaces
 - 2. Prioritising Active Transport
 - 3. Investing in Community Infrastructure



20-minute neighbourhoods

- Work undertaken in partnership with the Heart Foundation (Victoria) and across the Victorian Government identified the following hallmarks of a 20-minute neighbourhood. They should:
 - be safe, accessible and well connected for pedestrians and cyclists to optimise active transport
 - offer high-quality public realm and open spaces
 - provide services and destinations that support local living
 - facilitate access to quality public transport that connects people to jobs and higher-order services
 - deliver housing/population at densities that make local services and transport viable
 - facilitate thriving local economies.





Creating healthy built environments

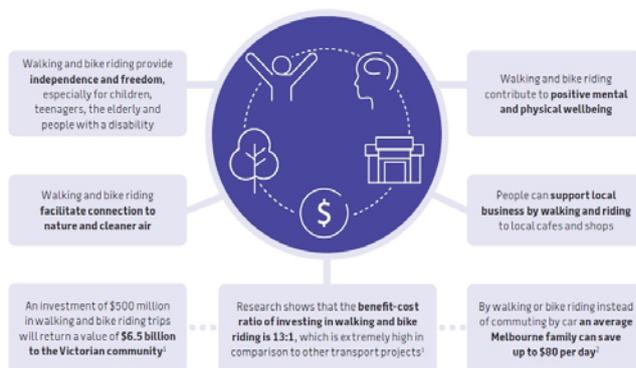
- We suggest Government should:
 - 1) Implement the rest of the recommendations of the '20-minute neighbourhood' pilot program and deliver more 20-minute neighbourhood pilot sites, starting with lower socio-economic areas in Melbourne's outer growth suburbs
 - 2) Help create healthy built environments by funding public transport and pedestrian infrastructure



Consensus Statement

What are the benefits of walking and bike riding?

Investing in walking and bike riding will lead to a significant range of benefits for the people of Victoria. Both are core pillars of healthy, vibrant and liveable cities and neighbourhoods. Enabling people to walk and ride as a part of their daily lives builds the communities people want to live in, where places are more welcoming, and people feel connected and safe.



Source: Streets are for Everyone Statement

- In March, the Heart Foundation along with 12 other walking, bike riding, transport, health and research groups released the *Streets are for everyone statement*, which outlines three clear and practical steps needed to create vibrant, active and connected communities in a COVID-normal Victoria:
 1. Include walking and bike riding as an essential part of integrated transport planning, including a walking strategy
 2. Prioritise streets for people in residential areas, around schools and shopping strips.
 3. Upgrade cities, regional centres and local neighbourhoods by improving footpaths, bike lanes, crossing opportunities and completing missing links





More than
1 in 3

Victorians planned to travel more by foot or bike than they did pre-coronavirus, but **safety is a barrier** for many¹



4 in 5

Victorians are interested in riding a bike if **high-quality bicycle infrastructure** is provided²



8 in 10

local councils plan to improve walking and bike riding options but **funding is the greatest barrier**³

Source: Streets are for Everyone Statement

Victorians want walking and cycling infrastructure

- Studies and polls carried out by the Heart Foundation, RACV and the Amy Gillet Foundation all show that people want safer paths, and support temporarily removing car parks to make way for pop-up bike lanes and wider footpaths in their local area.
- The Heart Foundation's 'What Australia Wants' survey (Nov 2020) found close to three in four (72%) Victorians support government diverting a higher portion of road spending towards local walking/cycling infrastructure, while a similar amount (75%) are in favour of a higher portion redirected towards public transport initiatives.



Thank you

Andrew.Mosley@heartfoundation.org.au

Naomi.Gilbert@heartfoundation.org.au

