

Queensland Walking Strategy

Progress Report 2019-2021



In August 2019, the Queensland Government launched the first *Queensland Walking Strategy 2019–2029*.

Over the last two years, Queensland Government departments and agencies, transport professionals and community groups have worked together to initiate and champion actions to make walking an easy choice for everyone, every day.

When we talk about walking, we also mean people running, or moving with the aid of a mobility device such as a wheelchair or mobility cane.

The *Action Plan for Walking 2019-2021* included 44 actions – 35 are completed and nine are ongoing. This report highlights some of the achievements.

Four priority areas



Planning for walkable communities and places



Building connected, comfortable and safe walking environments for all



Encouraging more people to walk as part of their 'everyday'



Working together to deliver for walking



Queensland Walking Strategy

Completed actions 2019-21

Highlights

1

Planning for walkable communities and places

- ✓ Released the **new model code for neighbourhood design** and the **street design manual** to ensure new residential subdivisions are walkable neighbourhoods
- ✓ Piloted and published **walking network planning guidance** to identify the best walking routes and projects around important destinations such as town centres, public transport stations and schools
- ✓ Released the Walkability Improvement Tool to help **audit neighbourhood streets** and identify **improvements needed for walking**
- ✓ Published new guidance on **providing shade** for walking and better **direction signs** for people walking, and updated guidance on **safe crossings** at roundabouts and slip lanes

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Building connected, comfortable and safe walking environments for all

- ✓ Supported local governments to **lower speed limits** in and around schools, public transport stations and other activity centres to make them safer and more attractive
- ✓ Worked with local governments to prioritise and fund **improvements for walking**, such as footpaths and street trees in town centres
- ✓ Created **safer environments for walking to school** as part of the \$20 million School Transport Infrastructure Program
- ✓ Promoted lighter quicker cheaper initiatives to **reallocate road space** to revitalise local centres in areas of high walking activity
- ✓ Created new and activated existing **walking tracks in national parks** so people can exercise and reconnect with nature

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Encouraging more people to walk as part of their 'everyday'

- ✓ **Raised awareness** about **road rules that affect people walking** to promote positive interactions between walkers and other road users
- ✓ Piloted new **inclusive mapping platforms** to provide better information about the **footpath network and access** to public transport for people using wheelchairs and other mobility devices
- ✓ Developed **specialised training** for planners, engineers and designers to 'think walking' and learn how to create attractive, comfortable, safe, accessible and convenient walking environments with local people
- ✓ Supported 10,000 Steps and Heart Foundation Walking to **encourage walking** through individual and workplace participation and community engagement

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Working together to deliver walking

- ✓ Partnered with Queensland Walks to facilitate the **new Queensland Walking Alliance**, **Queensland Walks Month** and a **resource hub** to support community advocacy on walking and accessibility
- ✓ Improved our understanding about the information communities and decision-makers require to **monitor needs** and **measure changes to walking environments**
- ✓ Developed indicators that measure the connection between **health and walkability**

Walking in Queensland Report 2019

The *Walking in Queensland Report 2019* provides a snapshot of walking trends and information for the state.¹

The report published indicators to help track progress over the ten-year life of the *Queensland Walking Strategy 2019-2029*.

While we won't report on these indicators until the strategy is halfway through, after only two years there are some encouraging trends:

- ✓ **More walking, more often:** the percentage of trips made by walking increased from 9 per cent to 10.1 per cent²
- ✓ **Safety improvements:** the number of pedestrian fatalities and hospitalised casualties decreased from 8.6 per 100,000 population to 6.7 per 100,000³
- ✓ **More walking for short trips:** the number of trips under 1km where people walked increased from 58.5 per cent to 60.2 per cent (based on data for South East Queensland)⁴

Case study: Making plans for walking in Queensland

To encourage more walking, we need walkable communities and places.

Queensland's new walking network planning guidance provides a step-by-step process for creating a plan and identifying how to make it a reality.

Three local governments trialled the new guidance: Logan City Council, Gladstone Regional Council and Mount Isa City Council.

It's important to work with communities to identify the most desirable and accessible walking routes to destinations such as public transport stations, shops and schools.

Danielle Slade, Mayor, Mount Isa City Council, says the guidance will:

*"assist Council to **prioritise works in the future**, in order to make this network more **user-friendly and cohesive**."*



References:

1. Also see Department of Transport and Main Roads. 2020. *Walking: What Queenslanders told us. Summary of community and stakeholder engagement for the Queensland Walking Strategy 2019–2021*. Brisbane.
2. Department of Transport and Main Roads. 2021. *The Queensland Household Travel Survey Report (SEQ 2021)*. Brisbane.
3. Department of Transport and Main Roads. *Road Crash Database 2020*. ABS Australian Demographic Statistics for Qld.
4. Department of Transport and Main Roads. 2021. Op. cit.

Case study: 'Think walking'

We identified a gap in professional training for planning, designing and operating walking infrastructure.

In response, we developed a two-day Walking Infrastructure Masterclass to build capability in the industry and to raise awareness of the requirements of people walking. We worked closely with stakeholders to prepare the course content and materials.

The course includes field trips to best practice walking environments and provides participants with an opportunity to audit and suggest improvements for an area that has some challenges for walking.

The masterclass will increase the knowledge and capability of professionals when working with communities to 'think walking' and design inclusive streets and places.

We also worked with Austroads to run a series of webinars on best practice approaches to road space allocation and street design to create better walking environments. A national audience of over 2000 traffic engineering, road design and road safety practitioners tuned in to the series held in February and March 2021.



Future actions

By leading the *Action Plan for Walking 2019–2021*, the Queensland Government has worked to improve walking environments and promote more walking for transport, health and recreation.

If Queenslanders of all ages and abilities can walk safely and comfortably, where and when they choose, it helps achieve Government

objectives including safeguarding our health, growing our regions and protecting the environment.

Through the *Action Plan for Walking 2022–2024* we will continue to work with local government, industry and the community to create better walking opportunities for everyone.



For the full story, visit:
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