



Dear Lord Mayor,

**We congratulate you on your recent election and we look forward to supporting you in developing more active, safe and connected communities. <sup>1</sup>**

**During COVID-19, more people are choosing to be active every day in local neighbourhoods. The provision of footpaths and safe crossings, open space and access to roads in our neighbourhoods are ever more important. We call on you for your commitment to:**

- 1. Shovel-ready walking and cycling <sup>2</sup> projects. Increased budgets and commitment to delivering basic, safe and innovative walking infrastructure with construction and maintenance of:** footpaths, safe pedestrian crossings and refuges, wider kerb ramps, signalised crossings with a shorter cycle and phasing to suit seniors, vision impaired, people with disabilities and children to safely cross the road
- 2. Temporary street closures or shared zones** to allow for people to safely walk and ride on local streets during COVID-19
- 3. Slower designed streets and speed limit reduction** for all people to walk and cycle safely
- 4. Wider, connected and safe footpaths (which also allows for essential physical distancing)**
- 5. Better shading of all paths** through tree planting and shading structures
- 6. Local mixed used and multi-generational parks, playgrounds, nature play and green space** that create community hubs and destinations **within walking/cycling distance of homes**
- 7. Separated walking pathways from bicycles, e-bikes and e- scooters** in high traffic or commuter routes
- 8. Removal of slip lanes** that cause unnecessary risk to walkers and riders, or an addition of zebra crossings until slip lanes have been removed
- 9. Commitment to a local walking and cycling strategy, preferably integrated into an overall active transport and recreation strategy**
- 10. Liveable and active streets designed for all:** children and our more vulnerable walking or wheeling residents
- 11. Investment in walking programs** ([10,000 Steps](#), [Heart Foundation Walking](#), [parkrun](#) and local bushwalking groups) through local funding, resources and supportive infrastructure.

We know how important a safe and healthy community is to you. Walking and cycling facilities are one of the lowest cost services that you can provide to your residents to improve their health and wellbeing, generate better community cohesion and create benefits for local business.

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<sup>1</sup> Every \$1 invested in walking interventions returns almost \$13 in benefits with decongestion health and environment, Badawi, Y, Maclean, F, Mason B, 2018. The economic case for investment in walking. Victoria Walks, Melbourne. *Please note, we estimate that this figure could almost triple during COVID-19 when health, community transfer and connectivity to local business are taken into consideration.*

<sup>2</sup> Walking includes mobility devices like wheelchairs and motorised or mobility scooters, cycling includes micro-mobility devices such as hired and personal electric scooters.



Thank you for your interest in supporting active communities. We would be happy to talk to you about how you can support our organisations and the localised active travel and recreation of neighbourhoods for your local residents.

For any further queries, contact Anna Campbell, Executive Officer [Queensland.walks@gmail.com](mailto:Queensland.walks@gmail.com) or 0419 728 670 on behalf of Queensland Walks, Bicycle Queensland and Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Campbell".

On behalf of Queensland Walks, Bicycle Queensland, Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation (QORF) and the Heart Foundation.



**Queensland Walks** is a community based membership organisation that advocates for more walkable places to encourage more people of all ages and abilities to walk.

Queensland Walks aims to improve the conditions and profile of walking, and support and encourage government, organisations, businesses and agencies to improve policy and funding priorities to enhance walking in a sub-tropical environment.

Walking is integral for community: for health, for mobility, for local business and for the safety of the local community. Our aim is to see walking environments so desirable that walking is an accessible and daily activity and the first choice of travel mode – to work, to school, to community centres, to the shops. With 40% of Queensland adults, and 59% of Queensland children not getting enough physical activity<sup>3</sup> we need to see Queenslanders walking more for their health.



**Bicycle Queensland** is the pre-eminent voice for community cycling in Queensland. With 17,000 members statewide and 32,000 supporters on our database, we exist to help Queenslanders cycle safely. We are dedicated to the promotion of bike riding as a driving force for individual health and well-being, and the empowerment of sustainable development. Our aim is to inspire all Queenslanders to ride safely with us, in our quest to make Queensland Australia's healthiest and most vibrant lifestyle destination.



**Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation Incorporated (QORF)** is the peak body representing the interests of the outdoor sector in Queensland. As a member-based, not-for-profit association, QORF represents and advocates on behalf of a coalition of outdoor groups and individuals.

QORF's mission is to raise the profile, capacity and opportunities for outdoor activity in Queensland, while encouraging more people to participate in outdoor activities. Note – QORF is in the process of changing its name to Outdoors Queensland.



**Nature Play QLD** works with partner groups to encourage the Queensland community to value nature play, and support families to prioritise it in children's lives. The primary role of Nature Play QLD is to advocate the nature play message and to increase access to nature play resources, events and programs for Queenslanders. Nature Play QLD is administered by QORF.

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<sup>3</sup> Queensland Health. 2018 *The Health of Queenslanders 2018*. Report of the Chief Health Officer Queensland.