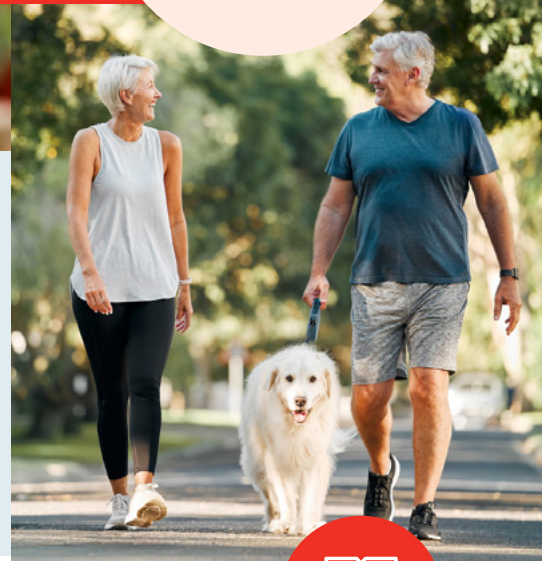


Love your Heart, Love your Community



5 Tips to have your say on walkability

Improving walkability in your local area starts with everyday community voices — and your voice truly matters. By speaking up and working with your local Council and community, you can help create healthier, safer and more welcoming streets for everyone. **Here are 5 Tips to get you started.**



1

Know Who is Responsible and How Decisions Get Made



Many aspects that influence how walkable your community is are the responsibility of local Council, but some aspects – such as speed limits on highways – are decided by the state government. Knowing who is responsible for the issue you want to change is the first step.

Understanding how your local council works helps you choose the best moment, and the right people, to talk to. Check who makes decisions, when budgets are set, and what strategies already support walking, wheeling and healthy neighbourhoods.

Some councils have advisory groups or committees that focus on aspects of the neighborhood (e.g., Liveable communities) or specific groups (e.g. young people or older people, people with a disability). Your idea might line up with the work of one these groups.

When your idea is presented in a way that demonstrates how it furthers their objectives, it is much more likely to progress.

Useful links

Heart Foundation – information about walkable, liveable communities:

[View here](#)

Look for examples of council strategies and/or 10-year Council plans (search on your council's website, try reviewing the 'Council' page). Examples might include: Walking Strategy, Cycling/Active Transport Strategy, Open Space Strategy, Health & Wellbeing Plan, Disability Inclusion Plan, Tracks and trails.

Review these tips for successfully working with local government

[View here](#)

2

Build Strong Relationships



Good relationships make a big difference.
Be open to diverse perspectives and considerations.

Attend a local council meeting to see how things work. Introduce yourself to councilors and staff. Ask what information would help them take your ideas forward.

Find and contact your local councilors (search): "[Your Council] councillors contact"

How councils work - Department of Premier and Cabinet Tasmania overview

[View here](#)

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3 Make a Clear, Positive Case



Keep your message simple: what is the problem, what change is needed, and how the change will help the community. Use local stories, photos and data to back up your idea. This makes your case stronger and more relatable. Share your message widely. Stay clear of being unduly negative of alternative suggestions, chances are their advocates are well meaning and with respect you will be more likely to work together.

4 Raise the Profile of the Issue



Help people see what better walkability would mean for your community. It is important to consider accessibility for the whole community, such as children, older people and people living with a disability.

You might host a small event, start a petition, talk to local groups, attend a community meeting, write a letter to the editor, create visualisations and images, or share stories on community group social media pages. Aim to bring people together around a shared vision for safer, healthier and more accessible streets.

Consider creating a community petition:

[Get started here](#)

When writing a letter to the editor

- Keep your sentences short and your language simple. Make your letter clear and crisp.
- Use a snappy phrase or 'sound bite' to help your letter to stand out from the others.
- Be polite and respectful
- Include a title for your letter if you can think of something catchy. It will usually get changed for publication but will help attract the editor's eye initially.
- Read your letter out aloud to someone else before you submit it.



Useful links

How you tell the story of walkability is important.

[Try these tips](#)

Tips for writing a media release and talking to the media

[View here](#)

Share the 2025 Heart Foundation What Australia Wants Report to demonstrate the strong community interest and support for walkability.

[View the report](#)

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5 Stick with it and celebrate progress



Change often takes time, so persistence really matters. It helps to be inspired by others, so share stories of how walkability has benefited other places. Keep records of conversations, emails and commitments so nothing gets lost along the way. Be open to compromise, thank people who help, and celebrate every improvement — every small win can build momentum!

[Learn from others here](#)

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