

# Western Sydney Health Alliance

For healthy communities in the Western Parkland City  
An initiative of the Western Sydney City Deal

## Walking and Cycling Workshop 1 – 27th September 2023

### Summary of workshop session

The session was opened with an introduction to the Project team, the objectives of the Western Parkland Walking and Cycling Strategy and how people can contribute through the 90-minute workshops and small group discussions facilitated during the workshop. This strategy has a health lens focus on Walking and Cycling across the Western Parkland City. It is anticipated the Strategy will be developed early 2024 and aligned with Councils Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework and guided by the 8 Councils Active transport plans and initiatives.

### Presentation – Walking and Cycling Snapshot for the Western Parkland City

#### *Alison Dunshea co-lead*

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Purpose of the Western Sydney Health Alliance was presented – To drive active commitment and effective collaboration between all members to maximise the health outcomes of the Western Parkland City.
- The Walking and Cycling Strategy is an initiative in the WSHA Strategic Plan 2022-25
- The anticipated outcomes for today – agreement on vision, scope and priorities for W&C Strategy, and endorsement of project team terms of reference. The ToR had been circulated prior to the workshop to all participants
- A Walking and Cycling Snapshot for the Western Parkland City was presented and covered the issues of:
  - Health Benefits
  - Co-benefits
  - The next generation – changes in travel behaviours
  - How the Western Parkland City compares with the Central and Eastern Cities of Sydney
  - How we frame our walking and cycling messaging
  - Links to Healthy Streets and NSW Movement & Place
  - Active School travel
  - The 3 core areas of the WPC Walking and Cycling Strategy
    1. Vision – 4 statement examples
    2. Priorities – 4 Priority area examples
    3. Actions
  - 3 questions were posed for Workshop 1 discussion groups to consider. These were:
    1. What is the scope of the Strategy?
    2. What is the vision?
    3. What are the priorities?

After the presentation participants broke into 4 discussion rooms to explore the 3 questions that were posed.

*Note - The presentation can be found in the members portal on the Western Sydney Health Alliance Liveability & Connections Working Group webpage. For access, please refer to:*

<https://wshealthalliance.nsw.gov.au/members-only/>

Following is a summary of the feedback from the 4 discussion groups

## **Breakout room feedback summary:**

### **Q1 - What is the scope of the Strategy?**

- Do not duplicate what is already happening and make sure this is **not** adding another layer in the planning process. Ensure it makes peoples jobs easier
- Terminology and timeframe (align with IP&R?) – other similar strategies with the same name – “walking and cycling” or “active transport” – title reflects what we are trying to do – is it a strategy or is it an action plan?
- Make sure the strategy is about collaboration – the Western Parkland City is reliant on cars – this is a wicked issue that is not currently being resolved – need an understanding of what each Council, State Govt and others are doing in this space. Opportunity to work together to get maximum benefits – as a standalone council it takes a long time to achieve any significant benefits
- Many new growth areas only opportunity is cars for transport.
- It is going to be a long time till we get rapid bus and metro lines – how can we get people to think differently regarding walking and cycling and multimodal opportunities.
- Need the focus to be on linkages - What are the pieces of the puzzle need to be put together so we can use active transport
- Good timing to link into Councils Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework and their next 4-year delivery Programs. This is a good way to embed collaborative actions.
- Evidence-based information and data collection - How will this feed into the strategy
- Highlight the gaps and common areas we can work upon on a Western Parkland level
- Opportunity to mapping out cycleway network connections across the Western Parkland City – has this been done?
- The strategy should include everyday connections, how we access CBD areas as well as recreation and tourism opportunities.
- It should be clear in the strategy how we get health benefits through walking and cycling – include local research, evidence, and guidance from NSW Health that we all agree on.
- Alignment to other plans and strategies with linked and shared goals that are localised i.e. Councils Strategies & initiatives, NSW Transport Active Transport Plan, Western District Plan, WPC Strategic Corridors etc.
- Need to be tied to grant funding that is available for any actions that arise
- Strategy needs to be supported ongoing – where does this strategy sit?

### **Q2 - What is the vision?**

- Vision statements are good – getting people more active, safety, different user groups
- Keep vision short and snappy - Making walking and riding part of everyone’s transport options in Western Sydney
- Safe, connected, and sustainable ways to move in and around the city and foster healthy inclusive sustainable communities
- People should be the focus and movement focused within the Western Parkland City

- Achieving active healthy lifestyles – health outcomes need to be included – capture the health lens – a difference lens to other strategies and putting people at the centre of initiatives
- Equity and inclusion issues are missing
- Connections between cycling networks and tourism opportunities
- A wholistic approach to walkable and cyclable networks and infrastructure – use of existing infrastructure - encourage walking to school and using the existing networks - kids teaching parents
- Important to look at new development but also looking at existing communities and opportunities to adapt - need infrastructure in the first place – build it and they will come - lots of missing links and lack of safe shared paths.
- Access to funding and advocating
- Evidence based and benchmarking
- Use Transport NSW vision – some concern that this was not realistic for Western Sydney – a vision for Western Parklands that can be a bridge to the State vision.
- Convenience issue should be considered -not easy to get to a train station, not easy to park for public transport
- Multimodal and a public transport elements – other public transport options should be included in the vision – need to link buses and active transport in Western Sydney
- 1st vision statement is relevant to what we are trying to achieve – encapsulates all we are trying to achieve.

### **Q3 - What are the priorities?**

- Consensus the 4 are good priority areas – give a broad overview for the Western Parkland City
- Use or align the focus areas with the NSW Active Transport Plan and make specific to Western Sydney **or** make this different and bring in the public transport perspective
- Is it active living rather than active transport – access to destinations and how to do this with a variety of modes of transport
- 15-minute neighbourhood is a metric – there are towns and communities in Western Sydney that are 15-minute neighbourhoods
- Need facilities and opportunities in place before people will change behaviour – make changes first then behaviour will change
- Existing communities with poor facilities – difficulties getting funding for this
- New developments built in from the start so there is no vacuum – ensure new developments can incorporate active transport
- Leave no one behind when planning and delivering. The Actions will have more detail
- Link with healthy streets work, Councils Plans and initiatives, NSW Active Transport Plan and the District Plan
- Infrastructure and a gap analysis of this to work towards connected networks
- Change behaviours - Active transport is a viable option in Western Sydney – Local Councils support this through servicing the amenities around public transport modes.
- Implementation Plan as part of the strategy - IP&R framework is a good opportunity to incorporate actions
- Coordination between agencies to work on projects and initiatives to achieve health benefits

- Support or add local value and perspective on the strategic corridors in the Western Parkland City
- Work towards a coordinated approach to infrastructure and maintenance
- Multimodal transport use – need to raise awareness and education around a multimodal approach – This is a priority and opportunity
- Addressing the barriers that are in place to multimodal approaches – make things simpler
- Future proof the cycle networks and walkways - need to protect cycleways and pathways so they are not consumed or lost if corridors need to be widened.
- Active transport links alongside metro lines – timing of funding and design planning is important when retrofitting if no funding to build up front
- Active transport route to the Aerotropolis – casually exists and concern it may disappear

## Next steps

Next Steps were discussed. Information from each organisation will be gathered through a spreadsheet with short and concise questions to capture what stakeholders are doing in the Western Parkland City in regards their initiatives and plans. This will not be onerous, and it was requested if the appropriate staff from each Council could complete this. This will be used to identify where we can collaborate and also explore the gaps.

If there were any questions, please direct them to either Alison Dunshea or Adam Hogan the co-leads for the project team. [alison.dunshea@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alison.dunshea@health.nsw.gov.au) or [adam.hogan@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au](mailto:adam.hogan@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au)

## Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference (ToR) were briefly discussed as they had already been circulated prior to the workshop.

The ToR document what the project team is about and the governance structure for the development of the WPC Walking and Cycling Strategy. It is important to have this documented as this will also assist with any handover or induction issues in relation to the initiative.

The ToR will also include review of current active transport plans of each Council.

The project team to develop the WPC Walking and Cycling Strategy is a “Sunset” team. It is time limited for the duration of the 3 workshops and some follow up meetings to complete the initiative. All workshops and any subsequent meetings will be online.

It was requested to feedback any concerns and issues in relation to the ToR to Alison Dunshea the Co-lead of the Project team.

The question was asked if there was any other stakeholders we may have missed that is vital in the process that should be involved and please feedback any other recommendations of involvement.

Next Workshop is to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> October – exploring what others are doing in the Walking and Cycling space in the Western Parkland City.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop will be focusing on Councils and what they are doing.