

Western Sydney Health Alliance

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

Walking and Cycling Workshop 2 – 10 October 2023

Summary of workshop session

The workshop began by summarising outcomes from the first workshop:

- Workshop 1 gave good understanding re our scope and raised questions about whether it was a strategy or something else (?roadmap).
- Everyone generally agreed on the words that need to be in the Vision and we are finessing this.
- Everyone agreed that the four priorities put forward were important areas of focus for walking and cycling in the WPC, and broadly align within Transport's Active Transport Strategy.

Workshop 2 focused on finding out what others (i.e. non-council organisations) are doing in relation to walking and cycling in Western Parkland City (WPC) & what actions are relevant for this Strategy.

Presentations were provided by three organisations to get everyone thinking about what others are doing in the walking and cycling space, and what is relevant for WPC councils.

1. Yano Fill-Dryden – A/Snr Manager Active Transport Strategy, Cities & Active Transport, Transport for NSW. Presented on Transport for NSW Active transport Strategy

- Purpose - double active transport (AT) trips in 20 years; Provides longer term ambitions with five year priority moves to guide planning, investment & priority actions for AT
- Trial 20 **Neighbourhood Deals** – whole of gov. action.
- Trial **Active Travel to School** program with Health & Education in schools (Pauline Chan leading)
- Trial **behaviour change interventions** – campaign encouraging sustainable mode switch
- Partner with councils to deliver new **strategic cycleway network**. At business case stage.
- Support **Rail trails**
- **Safer Main Streets** – place outcomes on state roads
- Pilot **Safer Cities Program** – Fairfield City Council (Brooke Wharton leading)
- Coordinate & streamline **funding**
- Legislation, guidelines, processes to **improve efficiencies** for councils
- Open data to capture **W&C data**

2. Peter McLean, Chief Executive Officer, Bicycle NSW. Presented on their activities in the WPC

- Key role is to serve members & provide insurance cover for members.
- **Advocacy** at all levels of government – for safe integrated strategic bike infrastructure using best practice. Submissions across all 8 WPC LGAs. Aerotropolis and growth areas are a focus and connecting corridors. Big opportunity to get it right before people move in. Preservation of corridors for future infrastructure.
- 5 Bicycle User Groups (**BUGs**) in WPC – CAMWEST (Penrith, Liverpool, Fairfield), WSCN (Fairfield), Liverpool BUG, Ride Blue Mountains, Bike North (Hawkesbury). Offer recreational, social & commuter **rides, local advocacy** - eyes and ears on ground for cycling. Involved in submissions - provide high level of detail and insight into cycling conditions. WSCN also has a **community building** focus as well.
- **Gap** in Macarthur area councils (Camden, Campbelltown, Wollondilly) - no BUG in these LGAs.

3. Elizabeth Calleja, Senior Adviser Physical Activity, Heart Foundation

- National led, local focus - WPC is priority area for HF – higher rates of heart disease
- Elizabeth Hannah – walking programs; Anna Gurnhill – built environment focus
- Focus on increasing physical activity (PA) rates (30mins/day) to reduce risk of CHD. Only 15% achieve PA guidelines, and 80% don't get enough PA.
- **Community Walking Groups** – 17 HF walking groups in WPC – recreational/social focus. Increasing focus in disadvantaged communities (e.g. Fairfield)
- **Personal walking plans** – online individual program
- **Active Australia Innovation Challenge** – open to community groups – youth to older adults. Opens 5 Feb 2024. Only 10 grants available across Australia.
- **Community walkability checklist** – engage walking groups and others to complete checklist and advocate for their environments to improve walking. Gives communities a voice.
- **HABD website** – NSW resources <https://www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au/resources/active-living-nsw>
- Upcoming communication campaign on PA
- **Gap** - no HF walking groups in Hawkesbury LGA

Following is a summary of breakout room discussions:

1. What else is happening in WPC?

TfNSW

- Major infrastructure projects (Metro, WSI, state roads) include AT infrastructure as policy is that all projects must include active travel (AT).
- Active travel to school – involves P&C, schools. Penrith City Council pilot? hasn't started yet.
- Strategic Cycleway Corridors project (? consultation with community and councils)
- Movement & Place (M&P) - resources/guides
- Get NSW Active – grant program
- Safer Cities Grant project in Fairfield LGA – Places team working to improve safety for women around Canley Vale Station
- Slower streets - 30kph (Mayor fought against this in Liverpool-set negative precedence for WPC)

Campbelltown Health & Education Precinct (CHEP) – WestInvest funds addressing AT connections

Western Sydney Planning Partnership

- Western Sydney Street Design Guidelines (WSSDGs) - Yanos to share which councils have adopted WSSDGs. Question re whether they are being implemented by engineers to create more pedestrian friendly development. LCC developing own version of WSSDGs including Healthy Streets guidelines & M&P.
- Lots of indirect work E.g. Early land acquisitions for recreation (and other uses) to ensure affordable when acquired; 15min neighbourhood project with TfNSW – how to implement in WPC.

BNSW

- Funding proposals with state gov. re introducing active school travel program.
- Bike week in NSW – reintroduce.
- Working with BUGs to show people how to use multimodal transport.
- Knowledge and skills for cycling. WSCN – great work support cycling in community.

Ride Blue Mountains (BUG) – involved in BMCC's Active Transport taskforce and AT Plan - want more offroad cycling

HF walking groups – councils try to help facilitate these

Local community-focused walking/cycling organisations

- Some start as a support/therapy group and continue as a walking group
- some LGAs lack walking and cycling groups/organisations (e.g. Camden, Campbelltown)
- Important for giving people a voice on local AT agendas
- engaging residents in advisory groups difficult without formal groups. (e.g. in Camden only 2 people registered for Cycling and Walking advisory group).

Committee for Sydney – support health and education precincts and offer links to local businesses

Business Chambers – often easier if W&C advocacy is coming from business and not government

Unis/TAFEs – not sure but should have an interest in this.

WS Parklands – need information on trails and communications

Cycle clubs – focused on sport cycling – do not seem interested in cycling advocacy, just racing.

National Parks – tourist destinations – not sure what they're doing re W&C.

Greater Cities Commission – mention of a WPC active transport plan/strategy - investigate

SWSLHD

- **Healthy Streets** – training to Council staff, demonstration grants, Community of Practice (CoP), community engagement event (CCC, WeRide, HF) in Ingleburn
- **LHD staff travel survey** – 5000+ responses. Use to leverage and demonstrate car dependence of staff – very small numbers using AT. Stark differences between hospital sites and how they get there. Tells a good story.
- **UNSW Cycleways Design Course** – subsidised for SWS council staff in 2023
- **Advocacy** – letters & submissions to councils & state agencies re planning, design, etc.

Centre for sensible transport – offering councils (councillors) education

Collective Leisure

- PA programs for seniors, refugees, disability groups.
- **WSYD Moving** – systems approach, shared vision to increase PA. CoP every 8 weeks.

ParkRun - recreational focus

2. What are key actions that should be included for W&C Strategy (focus on each priority area) – think about short (1yr)/medium (4yr)/long term (10plus)

Active school travel – programs and greater support, not just for walk to school day or bike week (long term – with immediate start for planning). Relevant across all priorities (planning, delivery, behaviour change, etc.)

Increase walking and cycling funding in WPC – including more grant opportunities & successes & streamlining grants. Councils have more projects than TfNSW have funding (e.g. Get NSW Active 2023/24 round had 523 applications & 80 successful grants for \$39.5M) and grant processes are time consuming for poor returns.

Development Control Plans

- Review DCPs to ensure inclusion of street design guidance & controls for walking and cycling – including Movement & Place guides, Healthy Streets, WSSDGs, car parking rates, bike parking.
- Create common guidance for all DCPs – add to council CSPs as an action – medium term action

Build community support for change

- **WPC specific communication** – e.g. simplify and unify messages - walkability, reducing parking rates, etc.
- Councillor and Council **Healthy Streets** education

- Support establishment of **local walking/cycling organisations** and groups
- **Cycling skills programs** to activate infrastructure

Gap analysis - Identify local cycling, walking and multimodal network gaps

- Map local walking and cycling routes to destinations (station, local centre, open space, school, tourist spots) and between major centres
- Set councils up with resources (tools, software, funds) to do this.
- Create plan for filling gaps & set priorities

Identify walking and cycling measures to monitor across WPC

- Identify other organisations who can work with WSHA to do this – e.g. universities.

3. Any gaps or new ideas?

Active school travel – program that includes attention to street environments

Funding for walking and cycling infrastructure

DCPs – need to support walking and cycling (see question 2)

Community voices advocating for better walking/cycling infrastructure – seniors groups, disability groups, mums/parents with prams/kids, interested but concerned cyclers, etc.

Walking and cycling data very limited.

Program for active travel grade separation over major state infrastructure severing communities (E.g. Northern Rd, Hume Hwy, M7)

Local translation of State guides

Green travel plan implementation – state agencies and developers commit to GTPs, but not being implemented on completion of developments.

Terms of reference for the Walking and Cycling Strategy Project Team were adopted

Next steps

Information is being gathered through a spreadsheet (Councils) and [survey](#) (other organisations) with short and concise questions to capture what stakeholders are doing in the Western Parkland City in regards their walking and cycling initiatives and plans. This will be used to identify where we can collaborate and also explore the gaps. Members are asked to complete the [surveys](#) (non-Council members) and spreadsheets (Councils) by 24 October 2023.

Results from council spreadsheets will be presented on 7 November 2023 at Workshop 3.