

Clause 56¹ Walkability Toolkit, Geelong
Making walking preferable, not just possible



In Brief

Town/Region	Greater Geelong
State	Victoria
Context	Regional city comprising inner urban, suburban and outer suburban area, coastal and rural townships
Target Group	All, but specifically new home owners
Organisation(s):	City of Greater Geelong and David Lock Associates
Timing of Project	Toolkit released end of 2008 Currently subject to Department of Transport sponsored statewide trial to test efficacy in subdivision planning. Trial results will be available late 2009
Weblink	http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/library/pdf/5326/81.pdf
Key Outcomes	People engaging in regular physical activity Built environments influencing active living Sense of belonging /Sense of place Positive health impacts

¹ Clause 56 of the Victorian Planning Provisions outlines the planning requirements for residential subdivision. These provisions express the Neighbourhood Principles contained in *Melbourne 2030 Planning for Sustainable Growth* and aim to achieve residential subdivision design that provides attractive, safe, livable and sustainable neighbourhoods. For further information see <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>

Overview

The *Clause 56 Walkability Toolkit* (the Toolkit) is designed to assist developers, subdivision designers and planning officers determine the walkability of a location, internally and within the context of surrounding street network and amenity.

The Toolkit is designed to complement minimal guidance on walking amenity for subdivisions within the Victorian Planning Provisions. Although it was developed specifically for Victoria, themes and strategies contained in the Toolkit are adaptable to all new subdivision environments, and could be used for auditing and evaluating walking conditions in existing environments.

The Toolkit is undergoing statewide evaluation, sponsored by the Department of Transport, across local governments and different environments.

OUTCOMES

If used consistently in new development the Toolkit should deliver:

- more walkable subdivisions
- better connections between new subdivisions and their surrounding environment
- better understanding of the factors that support walking environments
- better understanding of the infrastructure required to support walking
- better understanding of the factors that inhibit walking
- healthier people in new subdivisions, and
- more people walking more often.

Successes

- Currently subject to a Department of Transport sponsored Statewide trial in a range of local government environments to test efficacy of the Toolkit.
- Winner of the Planning Institute of Australia (Vic) Planning for Health and Well-Being Category in 2008.
- State overall award winner Heart Foundation (Vic) as a component of City of Greater Geelong's walkability platform.
- Category winner as a component of the Heart Foundation (Vic) Implementation of Plans and Policies that Support Heart Health.
- Highly commended as a component of the Heart Foundation (National) for Implementation of Plans and Policies that Support Heart Health category.
- Nominated for the Planning Institute of Australia, National Planning Award for Health and Well-Being in April 2009.
- Component of Geelong's walkability platform presented at International Walk21 as "Implementing the Thinking Planning Map", Barcelona 2008.

Learnings

- This work builds on a earlier guidance initiatives, including Healthy by Design and Supportive Environments for Health by the Heart Foundation and background work referenced below by Deakin University.
- Translating best practice health and physical activity information into accessible material for planners presents real challenges.

Costs

- Toolkit development costs were approximately \$4000 for research and consulting, with around three months of staff time across two years in kind (including project management, consulting, alliance building and other negotiations).
- The cost of not doing it should be considered, as Geelong has the highest obesity rate In Victoria.
- The Toolkit is available free of charge from the City of Greater Geelong's website.
- Application of the Toolkit in the early stages of subdivision planning requires no extra costs to developers or councils.

Benefits

- Applying the Toolkit to subdivision planning allows for consistency of approach by local government and developers and provides opportunity for the likely achievement of a more pleasant, connected and well thought out walkable environment.

REFERENCES

Bentley, I. McGlynn, S., Alcock, A., Smith, G. And Murrain, P. 1985, *Responsive environments*. Architectural Press, London.

Butterworth, I., Edwards, M. and Leslie, E., 2008, Building local government capacity to put walkability into policy and practice: Workforce Development Research Report. Deakin University, Melbourne.

David Lock Associates, May 2008, *Guidlelines For Walkable Coastal Environments*.

David Lock Associates and PBAI, October 2007, *Leopold Strategic Footpath Network*.

Department of Transport, 2007, *Manual for Streets*, London, United Kingdom.

Donovan, J., 2008, *Placemaking Design Guidelines*. UN Habitat Kosovo, Pristina.

Gehl, J., 2001, *Life Between Buildings*, Arkitekten, Copenhagen.

Marcus, C. C., Francis, C., (eds), 1998, *People Places, Design guidelines for Urban Open Spaces*, Wiley, New York.

Marcus, C. C., Sarkissian, W., 1986, *Housing as if people mattered, Site design guidelines for medium density family housing*, University of California.

Appleyard, D., Lintell, M., March 1972, 'The environmental Quality of City Streets', *Journal of the American Institute of Planners*, Vol. 38, No. 2.

VicHealth, 2007, *VicHealth fact sheet on Active Transport*, Melbourne.

Whyte, H., 1980, *The social life of small urban spaces*, Conservation Foundation, Washington.

Links

For further information on the Walkability Toolkit see

http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/Services_In_Geelong/Planning/Planning_for_People/New_Subdivisions_-_Clause_56_-_Walkability_Toolkit/

For Information Walkability in Coastal areas see

http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/Services_In_Geelong/Planning/Planning_for_People/Strategic_Footpath_Design_on_the_Northern_Bellarine/

For information on the Strategic Footpath Networks see

http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/Services_In_Geelong/Planning/Planning_for_People/Strategic_Footpath_Design_in_Leopold/