



2: Walking and Cycling

Our Objective

To expand the active travel network to improve connectivity and safety that helps make walking and cycling attractive alternatives to the car.



Our Challenges

We need to move away from our dependency on cars and embrace active travel - walking and cycling. This requires a significant change in travel behaviour as well as the provision of more accessible centres, villages and job opportunities.

Accessible and safe pedestrian routes will also be important as the population ages. Our infrastructure has to accommodate increasing numbers of people who are less mobile and need assisted transportation options. There are also competing needs between those who choose active modes of travel, including pedestrians, rollerblading, skateboarding and cyclists.

There are many missing links in footpath and cycle-way networks and limited off-road connections between Northern Beaches communities. Regional linkages are needed for pedestrian and cyclists to get around. Funding and the topography of the area are barriers to active travel.

Work is underway on the \$22.3 million Connecting Northern Beaches project in partnership with NSW Government. This will connect Palm Beach to Manly via a coastal walkway and cycleway with linkages to major transport hubs. Active travel on the east-west corridors remains a lower priority to other forms of transport with the development of the Northern Beaches Hospital and Ingleside precincts. Further separation of cycle-ways, pedestrian paths and local roads will need investigation and funding.

Our Opportunities

Good, safe and separate walking and cycling routes are important to provide active travel alternatives to cars and public transport. Active travel brings health, well-being and liveability benefits to our community. It is also important for the economic viability of local centres and villages, helping reduce traffic congestion and improving environmental sustainability.

In order to make the Northern Beaches a great place to walk, we will need to expand the current footpath network to better connect our people and places including public transport hubs. This supports social connections for young families, the elderly and people with a disability.

Development of off-road shared paths for recreational walking and cycling is also critical. The Narrabeen Lagoon trail provides a dedicated recreational walking and cycleway that connects to other shared paths in Narrabeen, Cromer and Dee Why.

Community neighbourhoods that support and enable more walking and cycling and integrate all modes of travel help improve commuting and general connectivity. By creating more direct walking and cycling routes to popular destinations, improving footpath quality, installing kerb ramps, end of trip facilities, traffic calming and better signage, we can make our streets safer and accessible for all.

To improve the walking and cycling network, Council will continue to partner with the State Government to deliver active travel improvements.


Our Future Priorities

- Partnering with the State Government to deliver network improvements, including missing links, and way-finding signage
- Prioritising and delivering network improvements via a Walk Plan and Cycle Plan
- Integrating safe and active transport across all modes of travel
- Promoting end of trip facilities to support the active transport network
- Reduce conflict between road users

Have Your Say on Walking and Cycling

1. Do you support these priorities? Why or why not?
2. How important is a walkable local community to you?
3. What would help you choose to walk or cycle more?
4. What can Council do to encourage more walking and cycling?
5. How do we provide better infrastructure for an ageing population?

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The Warriewood Valley development now provides an extensive active travel network with connections to local shops, sportsfields, schools and public transport

Active travel integration has been included in the planning for the Ingleside land release and development of the Northern Beaches Hospital Precinct.