

**Unite &  
Recover** 

# Walkable Neighbourhoods

Information session on the assessment benchmarks in schedule 12A of the  
Planning Regulation 2017

# WHY?

■ Architecture

## Planning is Critical for COVID Recovery

The COVID-19 lockdown restrictions have made us more aware of neighbourhood amenity, especially the quality of our local retail centres and the provision of parks and public places. This has already translated into programs for funding improved [pedestrian and cyclist facilities](#), [open spaces](#) and [social housing](#). There is enormous opportunity for these programs to expand to offer broader community benefits and generate significant local economic activity.



**Primary school-aged children's health hits rock bottom**

# Kids aren't alright

**EXCLUSIVE**  
 JACKIE SINNERTON  
 HEALTH REPORTER

A QUEENSLAND play report says a gobsmacking report shows primary school-aged children's health is the worst it has ever been. The alarming research will be delivered to national and international representatives at the inaugural Childhood Summit in Brisbane next week.



Liliana and Oscar get in their daily exercise. Picture: JAKE NOWAKOWSKI



Experts call for infrastructure to keep young generations active

## Kids must get back on track to fitness

Unite & Recover 

Our plan for Queensland's future  
Priority area 1

# SAFEGUARDING OUR HEALTH

## BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Supporting the health, wellbeing and resilience of Queenslanders is a key priority of this government.

Demands for social services support have increased as a result of the pandemic. We recognise the impact the current situation has had on the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities.

Working in partnership with the community services sector, we will build on a range of existing programs to improve public health and help those in our communities who need support.

Investing in community infrastructure and critical services will lead to new opportunities and improved social and economic inclusion for many Queenslanders. We are already mandating planning requirements to support healthy and active Queensland communities, ensuring walkable residential neighbourhoods and access to local parks and open spaces.

## Our journey

July 2019

Release of Model Code for Neighbourhood Design and proposed mandatory provisions

July – September 2019

1<sup>st</sup> public consultation

December 2019 – January 2020


2<sup>nd</sup> public consultation

27 August 2020

Publication of Planning (Walkable Neighbourhoods) Amendment Regulation 2020 and updated Model Code for Neighbourhood Design


28 September 2020

Commencement of the Amendment Regulation



July 2017  
**State Planning Policy**

Department of Infrastructure and Planning  
Queensland Government

  
Queensland

**Planning (Walkable Neighbourhoods) Amendment Regulation 2020**

Subordinate Legislation 2020 No. 162

made under the  
Planning Act 2016

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**MODEL CODE NEIGHBOURHOOD DESIGN**  
A CODE FOR RECONFIGURING A LDI

August 2020

Queensland Treasury  
Planning Board  
INSTRUMENT NO. 162 (SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION 2020 NO. 162)

  
Queensland Government



**STREET DESIGN MANUAL:**  
**WALKABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS**

A contemporary guide for the design and development of Queensland's residential neighbourhoods

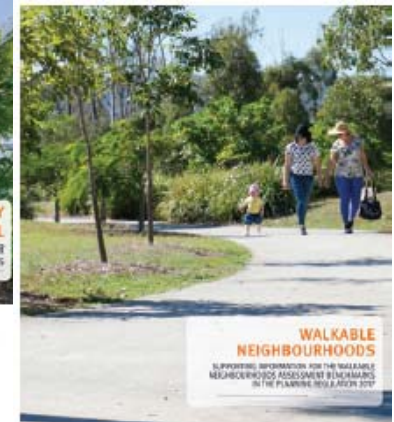
  
Queensland Government



**WALKABILITY IMPROVEMENT TOOL**  
A DECISION-MAKING GUIDE FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD ENHANCEMENTS

Queensland Treasury  
Planning Board  
INSTRUMENT NO. 162 (SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION 2020 NO. 162)

  
Queensland Government



**WALKABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS**  
SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR THE WALKABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSESSMENT BENCHMARKS IN THE PLANNING REGULATION 2020

18th Dec 31 August, 2020

Queensland Treasury  
Planning Board  
INSTRUMENT NO. 162 (SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION 2020 NO. 162)

  
Queensland Government

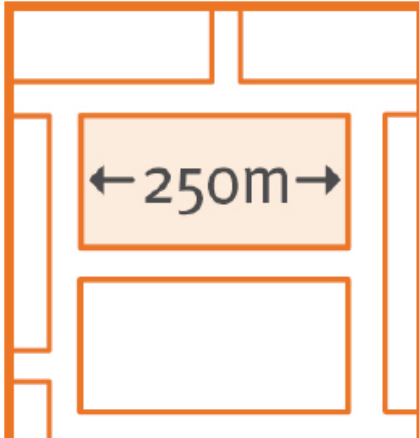
# Walkable Neighbourhoods toolbox

## The Amendment Regulation (Walkable Neighbourhoods)



### CONNECTIVITY

for pedestrians is provided through a grid-like street layout responding to the local landscape.



### BLOCK LENGTHS

are a maximum of 250 metres.



### One STREET TREE

every 15 metres on both sides of all streets.



### FOOTPATHS

are provided on at least one side of local neighbourhood roads and on both sides of main streets.



### Blocks are within 400 metres of a PARK OR OPEN SPACE.

## When do the assessment benchmarks apply?

Applies to reconfiguring a lot if:

- the reconfiguration is the subdivision of the lot into two or more lots
- the lot being reconfigured is wholly or partly in a residential zone (except rural residential zones), emerging community zone or mixed use zone
- at least one of the created lots is intended mainly for a residential purpose
- the reconfiguration is associated with the construction or extension of a road

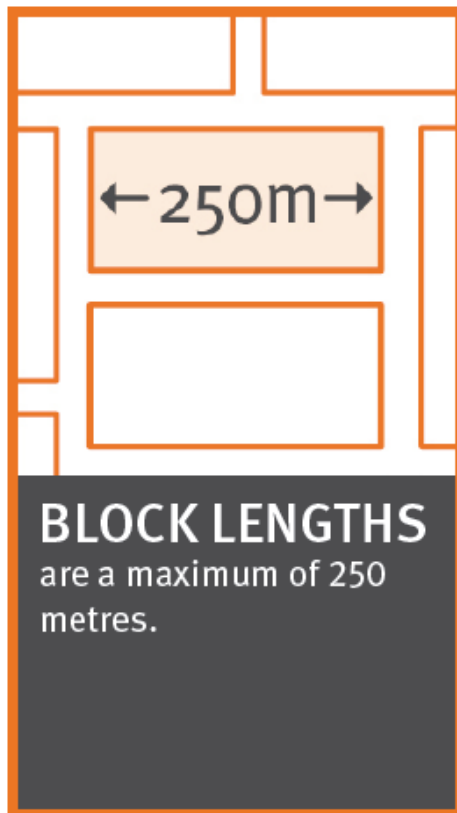


#### 4 Connectivity

The reconfiguration provides connectivity for pedestrians by—

- (a) ensuring that any roads constructed or extended in association with the reconfiguration are connected in a grid-like pattern that is responsive to topography and other physical constraints; and
- (b) ensuring that, to the extent topography and other physical constraints reasonably permit, any roads constructed or extended in association with the reconfiguration, or footpaths provided in relation to the reconfiguration—
  - (i) connect to roads and footpaths in surrounding areas; or
  - (ii) allow for connection to future roads and footpaths in surrounding areas.





## 5 Maximum length of particular blocks

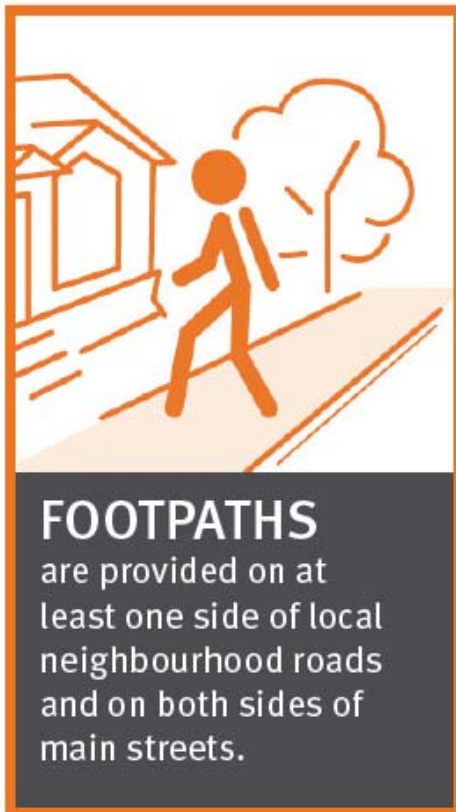
- (1) The reconfiguration provides for convenient pedestrian movement by ensuring the length of each boundary of a block for the reconfiguration does not exceed the lesser of—
  - (a) a maximum length for a boundary of a block stated in a local assessment benchmark for the reconfiguration; or
  - (b) 250m.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply in relation to a block for the reconfiguration that the development application for the reconfiguration states will be subdivided as part of a future stage of development.



## 6 Street trees

The reconfiguration provides shade for comfortable walking by—

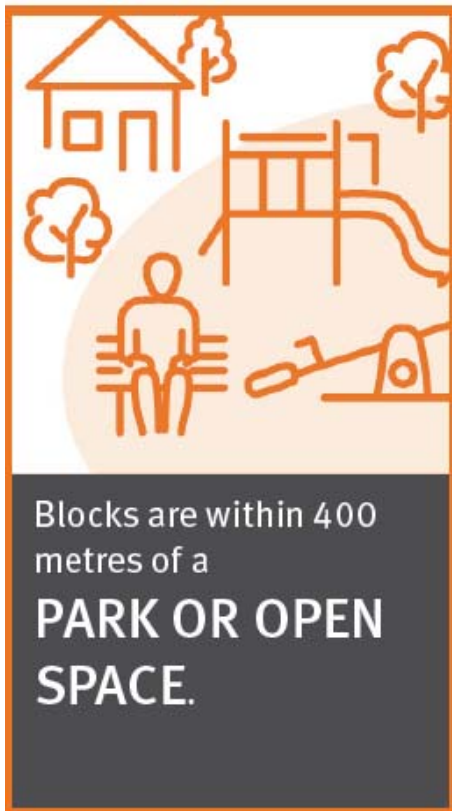
- (a) if a local assessment benchmark for the reconfiguration requires the planting of more than 1 tree per 15m on each side of a new road—complying with the local assessment benchmark; or
- (b) otherwise—ensuring at least 1 tree is planted per 15m on each side of a new road.



## 7 Footpaths

The reconfiguration provides for convenient and comfortable pedestrian movement by ensuring—

- (a) for a new road used mainly for providing direct access to a created lot—a footpath is constructed—
  - (i) if a local assessment benchmark for the reconfiguration requires the construction of a footpath on both sides of the new road—on both sides of the road; or
  - (ii) otherwise—on at least 1 side of the new road; or
- (b) for another new road—a footpath is constructed on both sides of the road.



## 8 Parks and other areas of open space

- (1) The reconfiguration ensures access to areas for recreation, leisure or exercise by ensuring that, to the extent topography and other physical constraints reasonably permit, a part of each block for the reconfiguration is within 400m of a park or another area of open space that is accessible to the public.
- (2) In this section—  
*park* includes—
  - (a) an existing park; and
  - (b) a park, to be provided under a development approval, if development of the park has started; and
  - (c) land identified as a park in a local planning instrument; and
  - (d) land identified in an LGIP for public park infrastructure.

# Purpose

Planning (Walkable Neighbourhoods) Amendment Regulation 2020

[s 6]

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## **Part 2                      Assessment    benchmarks**

### **3    Purpose of part**

- (1) This part sets out assessment benchmarks for reconfiguring a lot to which this schedule applies.
- (2) The purpose of this part is to ensure the reconfiguration supports convenient and comfortable walking for transport, recreation, leisure and exercise in the locality of the lot.

## In summary

- As of 28 September 2020, new assessment benchmarks apply to development applications for reconfiguring a lot:
  - subdivision of (into 2 or more lots) in certain residential zones
  - involves the extension of a road
  - proposed lots are intended for a residential purpose.
- Assessment benchmarks are matters that the assessment manager **must assess against**
- Assessment manager has the discretion to approve a development application, with or without conditions.
- An assessment manager may elaborate on this reasoning in its statement of reasons, which is part of the decision notice.
- The reasoning may refer to the purpose of the assessment benchmark to help interpret what the assessment benchmarks aim to achieve.
- A planning scheme may set benchmarks that achieve a higher standard or include additional requirements



- Updated **Model Code for Neighbourhood Design – a code for reconfiguring a lot.**
- Voluntary code provisions to ensure planning schemes achieve well designed residential developments.
- Can be amended to suit local context.

# STREET DESIGN MANUAL: WALKABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

*A contemporary guide for the design and development  
of Queensland's residential neighbourhoods*



## Institute of Public Works and Engineering Australasia Queensland (IPWEAQ) Street Design Manual Walkable Neighbourhood 2020

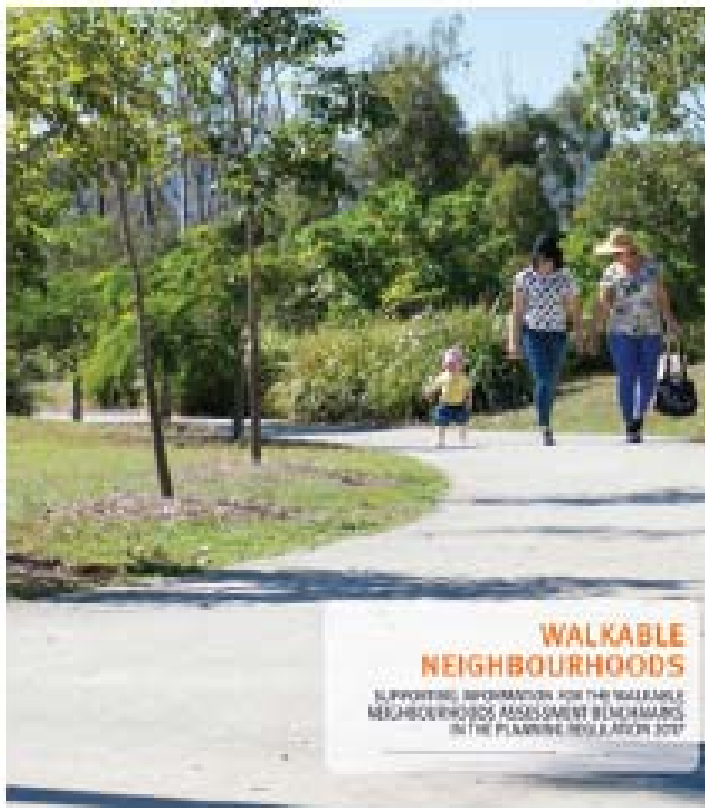
- Part 1 – Planning and Design Guidelines for the design of residential neighbourhoods,
- Part 2 – Detailed Design Guidelines relating to the detailed design of neighbourhood infrastructure including traffic, streets, active transport, and services.
- Practice Notes





## Walkability Improvement Tool for Built Environment Professionals

- Methodology to identify and prioritise walkability improvements in existing neighbourhoods.



Effective 31 August 2020

Queensland Treasury

Planning Group

With thanks to the Queensland Planning Institute



## Walkable Neighbourhoods: Supporting information

- Supporting information for developers and assessment managers in considering the development against assessment benchmarks for walkable neighbourhoods.

# Questions?