

10 January 2025

Re: 100 Day Games Review

Dear Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the 100 Day Review. Queensland Walks welcomes the opportunity for the State Government to carefully review Olympic and Paralympic Games (the Games) venues. Queensland Walks is a community-based organisation which advocates for more walkable places, so more Queenslanders choose to walk. The Games offers an ideal opportunity to improve walkability for the future of Queensland and its people. A more walkable legacy from the Games will improve our health, uplift our community connection, bolster local businesses, reduce traffic congestion and transform Queensland economically, culturally, socially and environmentally.

After major investments in public transport (Cross River Rail, Brisbane Metro, busways and transit ways) as well as roads and tunnels, now is the time to focus on the walkability of our city and South East Queensland, by connecting all the venues and key focus areas like the CBD, South Bank, Woolloongabba, Fortitude Valley, Albion and Hamilton Reach. This will align Queensland with best practice design seen in leading Games cities across the world such as Paris, New York, and London, as well as cities similar in size to Brisbane, [like Vancouver](#).

We note four main areas of the 100 Day Review that we wish to draw attention to:

1. Assess connectivity and integration – elevating the integration between venues and public and active transport supports walkability for everyone, in all weather and all times of the day or night.
2. Transport infrastructure – guaranteeing that priority is given to active and public transport provisions and good universal design principles are used to ensure that everyone can access and participate.
3. Legacy-focused – enabling the whole community who walk in or near the local footprint and businesses to benefit from the investment in the short and longer term due to improvements made to walkability and the uptake of public and active transport.
4. Integrated Planning – applying universal design and best practice to every master plan framework ensuring high quality integration between active and public transport.

Aligning with these four themes, we offer key recommendations to improve walkability:

1. **The spaces between the venues are as important as the Olympic and Paralympic venues.** The Queensland Government's Movement and Place framework and recommendations of Transit Oriented Design (TODs) should be used as they provide practical guidance on good placemaking and walkability between venues, events and public transport.
2. **Embracing a pedestrian-first approach (like London & Paris) will see transformative change to our Queensland cities and venues.** Focusing on walkability is essential for managing capacity and flow between venues and responds to the aforementioned key points (Connectivity and integration, Transport infrastructure, Legacy-focused, Integrated Planning).

Further, we support the [Green Pathways, Gold Places: Design Meets Government alliance recommendations](#) (1):

- *The establishment of a 2032 Design Coordination Unit within the Office of the Queensland Government Architect*
- *A 2032 Green Grid that supports an urban Olympic Forest in South East Queensland*
- *A precinct-based approach to venue design and planning in collaboration with the Games Partners*
- *The development of place funding models for the Games Budget which ensures design and place outcomes are recognised as strategic investments, not costs.*

3. We recommend significantly improving walkability and prioritisation of the spaces for walking by:

- Improving footpath quality, conditions and widths
- Improving pedestrian friendly crossings, including mid-block crossings, and at-grade crossings such as Raised Priority Crossings
- Designing responsive pedestrian buttons (short cycles for people waiting and walking) and safer crossings that are designed to prioritise pedestrian flow rather than private vehicle movement
- Providing separated cycling and e-scooter infrastructure connections for riding, and parking facilities
- Providing high quality shading and green grids along active corridors and lanes
- Providing increased shaded seating and waiting areas to reduce heat risk impact and improve comfort (tree canopy and structural shading).

More recommendations for improving walkability can be found with our Queensland Walking Alliance Call to Action [Accessibility and Inclusion](#), and [Safer Streets for Walking Now](#) documents.

4. Design for legacy infrastructure such as a signature ‘Great Walk’ that improves the way we move around the venues, as well as the potential for signature **‘Great Queensland Walks’**. Existing legacy examples in Brisbane include the famous and popular Southbank Arbour, and the building and naming of the Goodwill Bridge, Neville Bonner bridge and Kangaroo Point green bridge. Enhance existing community sporting facilities with improved pathway connections & lighting for walking and riding and active recreation.

5. Encouraging more people to walk more every day through programs and infrastructure. This can be achieved through funding support and activations by existing leading walking programs such as 10,000 Steps, Heart Foundation Walking, parkrun and more. We can also encourage more walking to venues rather than experiencing pre and post event surges on transit and on-demand services (uber, taxi) and reliance on private vehicle. Walking to venues generates atmosphere and camaraderie.

6. Support high quality conditions for walking to local and nearby businesses so they benefit from The Games before and after events, and for future events and activities. This will be achieved by working with Brisbane City Council, funding walking infrastructure and making walking a priority.

7. Provide accessible pedestrian-first options with universal design and selecting venues that are located closest to transit, active corridors and major centres. Ensuring that the walk is direct, safe and comfortable so that people with disability or people who are less mobile can also access the venue via public transit, walking, rolling or strolling.

[1] The Australian Institute of Architects, Queensland Chapter, in collaboration with the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, Design Institute of Australia and Planning Institute of Australia officially launched the Green Pathways, Gold Places advocacy for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Whilst the core focus of the 100 Day Review will be largely focused on the Southeast Queensland venues, we encourage the Games to create legacy upgrades to mobility and public transport that benefit regional Queensland communities and visitors.

Examples of improving walkability for Olympic and Paralympic Games

We note that the success of the [Paris](#), London and [Vancouver](#) Games was rooted in the improvements to walkability and rideability coupled with good transit integration. (2) Here's how London's pedestrian-friendly transformation ideas can inspire initiatives for Queensland.

Enhancing walkability	Deliver pedestrian-friendly urban spaces like Vancouver, Paris, and London to encourage transit use, reduce car dominance, and improve safety and health.
Adopting programs like "Healthy Streets"	Implement initiatives like London's "Healthy Streets," increasing green spaces, reducing Urban Heat Island Effect, and promoting sustainable urban planning.
Transforming key locations	Pedestrianise busy areas in Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Cairns, or the Gold Coast, similar to London's Covent Garden or South Bank.
Integrating public transport	Improve links between public transit and walking routes, ensuring routes are shaded, scenic, and convenient for all users.
Encouraging sustainable travel	Promote sustainable tourism through walkable cities and neighbourhoods, following examples like London's integration of travel and walkability.
Commitment to future walkability	Advocate for prioritising walking in future developments with a focus on legacy, sustainability, and accessibility.
Fostering community connection	Create safe, walkable neighbourhoods to enhance community well-being and a sense of belonging.
Boosting tourism appeal	Develop walkable routes to major attractions like South Bank Parklands and the Great Barrier Reef hinterlands to reduce vehicle reliance.
Developing scenic routes	Build and enhance walking and cycling paths along the Brisbane River and coastal areas, inspired by London's Thames Path.

[2] <https://navigatemobility.com/urban-mobility-lessons-from-the-paris-2024-olympics/>

We acknowledge and support the submission of our Active Transport advocacy partner organisation Bicycle Queensland, and additionally support their recommendations as well as our Queensland Walking Alliance partners.

Who is Queensland Walks

Queensland Walks is the peak state based pedestrian organisation with a community-based membership and a coalition of partners in the Queensland Walking Alliance. Our purpose is to improve the safety of places where people walk, and advocate for improved walking conditions and opportunities to walk more in Queensland.

We thank you again for the opportunity to provide input into the 100 Day Review.

Yours in health and walking,



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