

Summary report

Principal Pedestrian Network Walking Behavioural Survey



City of
Newcastle

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Prioritising pedestrians is an important objective to achieve a liveable, sustainable and inclusive Newcastle.



Project Background

City of Newcastle (CN) is developing a strategic approach in response to:

increased participation in walking or other pedestrian activities

addressing barriers to walking and other pedestrian activities

improving the experience and safety of pedestrians across the city

A key component of this strategic Plan for walking and mobility is the 'Principal Pedestrian Network' – a mapped network of routes which support pedestrian activity into and around key destinations such as shops, schools, parks and transport stops.

What we did

To better understand pedestrian access and walkability of our city, CN conducted an online survey from 12 May to 30 June 2022. The purpose of the survey was to:

understand walking patterns and behaviours

explore current distances and willingness to walk to various facilities/locations

understand the benefits of walking and features that are important for making streets accessible

identify potential barriers and/or hazards that limit the accessibility of walking

learn how CN can encourage people to walk more

Information from this survey will be combined with our existing project database and other insights to guide the identification, prioritisation and development of pedestrian projects across the city.

Who we heard from

A total of 660 people responded to the survey, with responses from across all four wards. There was a strong response from females (69%) and couples/families with children (57%). 12% of respondents reported having lived experience with a disability.



660
people
responded



69%
were female



57%
were couple/
families with
children



12%
had lived
experience
with disability

What we heard

Usage of public streets, parks and other public spaces

Walking and other pedestrian activities include:



walking alone, with others, with children, prams or pets



jogging



using bicycles, scooters, skateboards



using walking/mobility aids such as wheelchairs, mobility scooters, walking frames or walking sticks

Walking enables us to get places and has important health and social benefits

Walking activity

When asked the number of days in a typical week that they spend more than 5 minutes walking:

more than 99% of respondents participated in some level of walking activity

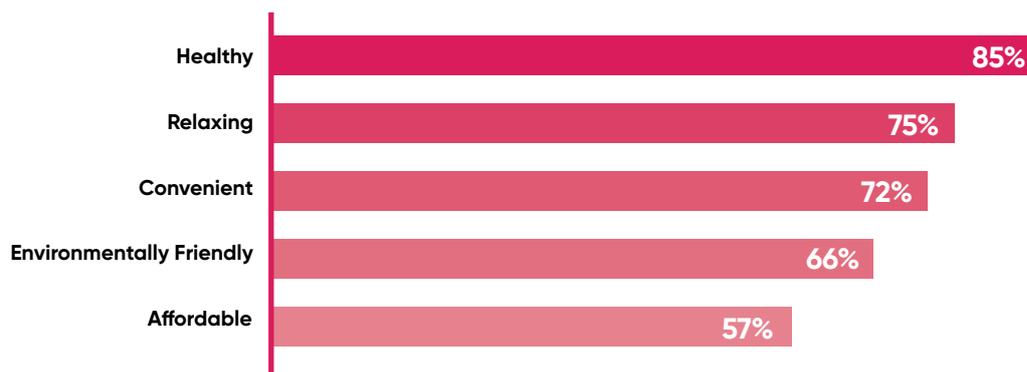
78% of respondents said they walked nearly everyday (5 or more days in a typical week)

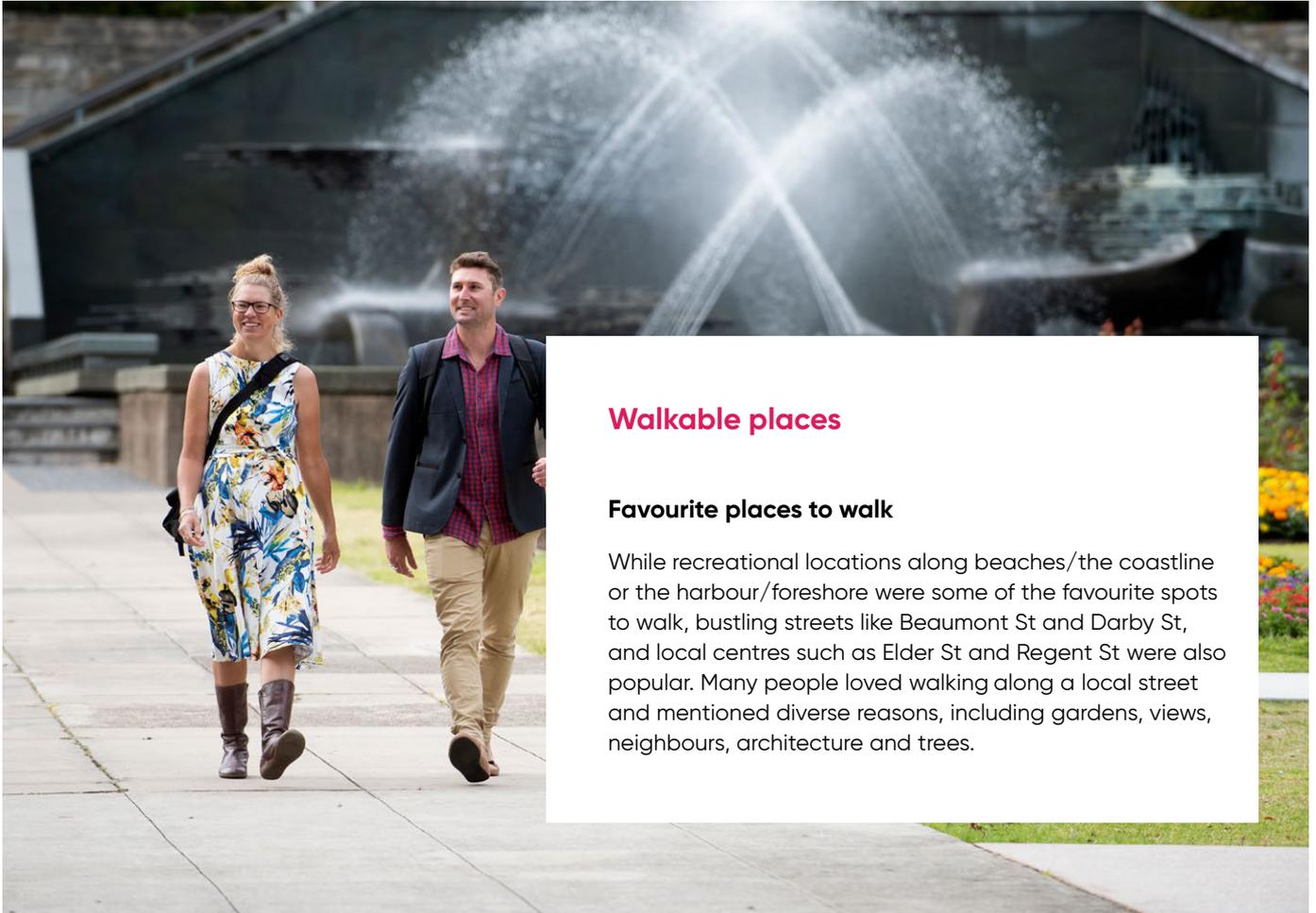
more than half (52%) of respondents walked everyday during a typical week

Without prompting, people associated walking with a range of important moments and activities – from exercise and socialising, to relaxing, thinking, and enjoying the fresh air and surrounds.

Benefits of walking

We asked how important specific benefits of walking were to respondents and the top 5 most important identified were:





Walkable places

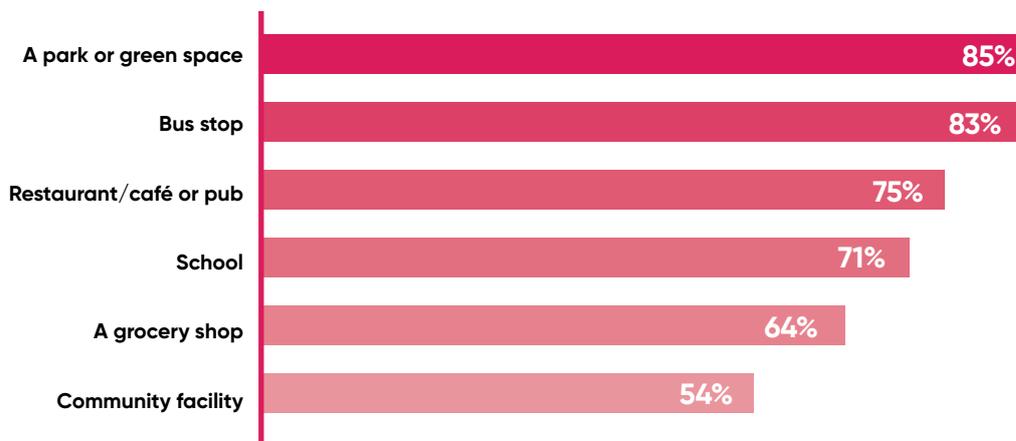
Favourite places to walk

While recreational locations along beaches/the coastline or the harbour/foreshore were some of the favourite spots to walk, bustling streets like Beaumont St and Darby St, and local centres such as Elder St and Regent St were also popular. Many people loved walking along a local street and mentioned diverse reasons, including gardens, views, neighbours, architecture and trees.

Ensuring people can walk to the places they are willing to walk

Respondents were asked about their willingness to walk to various destinations and how long it would currently take them to walk there.

A majority of respondents were willing to walk the current distance to:

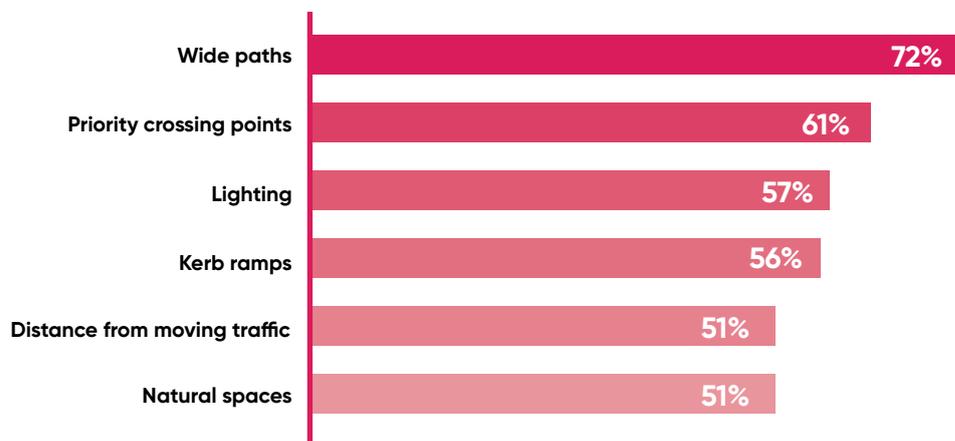


Ensuring that the right infrastructure is in place, will likely encourage more frequent pedestrian activity to and from these destinations.

Experience and safety of pedestrians

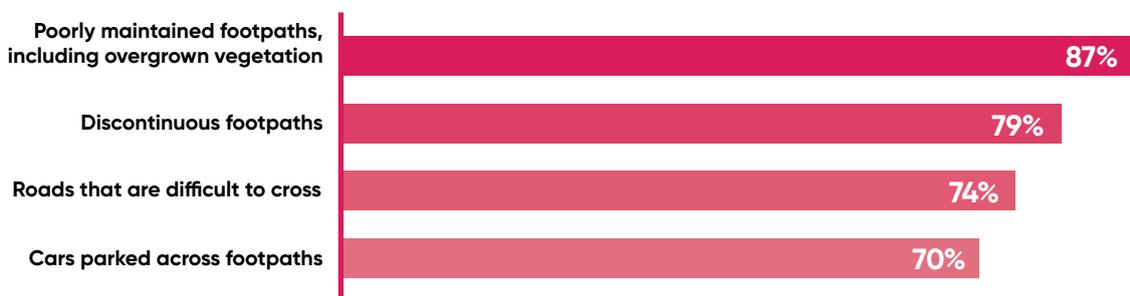
Features that make walking attractive to you

Six features were very or extremely important to more than 50% of respondents. These were:



Barriers to walking and other pedestrian activities

Potential barriers most frequently experienced include:



Lack of footpaths/inaccessible footpaths result in risks to pedestrian safety

More than

4 out of 5

people have had to walk on the road because there wasn't a footpath

People walk less because of poor infrastructure

29% of people

who claimed to walk less frequently now than they did a year ago, stated it was because of poor pedestrian infrastructure (no footpaths/footpaths not safe or accessible)

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