

DRAFT for a State Policy for Healthy Spaces and Places



May 2019

DRAFT

State Policy for Healthy spaces and Places

1. Purpose

To encourage the use and development of land that builds healthy communities through the provision of healthy spaces and places in the built environment of Tasmanian cities and towns.

2. Objective

To create healthy spaces and places which provide equitable access to opportunities for active living, active travel and healthy food.

3. Definitions

The following definitions are to be read in the context of this State Policy's objective and principles.

access/accessibility means the degree to which people have access to a location, facility, program, open space, and cycle and walk networks.

active living means a way of life that integrates physical activity into daily routines.

active travel (transport) means travel modes that involve physical activity such as walking and cycling and includes the use of public transport that is accessed via walking or cycling and may allow for integration of multi-modal transport in the course of a day.

activity centre means mixed land use that provides a focus for services, employment, retail and commercial activity and social interaction in cities and towns.

built environment means the structures and places in which we live, work, shop, learn, travel and play, including land uses, transportation systems and design features.

connectivity means the directness of travel between destinations and includes movement networks and integration of movement opportunities.

equitable access means people from all backgrounds have similar opportunities to access and enjoy spaces and places.

food security means the ability of individuals, households and communities to physically and economically access food that is healthy, sustainable, affordable and culturally appropriate. The domains of food security include supply, demand, utilisation and access (financial and physical).

health means a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

healthy food means that which is required for a healthy and nutritious diet and is adequate, safe and culturally appropriate.

healthy spaces and places means spaces and places that are thoughtfully designed and safe and enhance opportunities for physical activity and social interaction, enable local access to healthy food choices and contribute to a range of health benefits.

life-cycle requirements: means housing that accommodates the changing requirements of residents through their stages of life.

Liveable street: means a street that provides for safe and convenient access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of travel within a connected street hierarchy. Liveable streets facilitate walking and cycling through connectivity and permeability and facilitates the efficient movement of public transport. (source: definition developed for a State Policy for Healthy Spaces and Places.)

mixed density housing means residential development that contains a range of housing types, such as single dwellings, medium-density dwellings and higher-density dwellings, including apartment buildings, and usually includes a variety of building forms.

mixed land use means complementary uses such as houses, shops, schools, offices, libraries, open space, community gardens and cafes etc are co-located to promote active travel to, and between different activities facilities and services.

permeability means the extent to which urban forms permit (or restrict) walking and cycling to access urban spaces and places.

spaces and places means the composite of the built environment where people live, work, shop, learn, travel and play and includes neighbourhoods, movement networks (e.g. streets and paths), activity centres, schools, parks and reserves.

social inclusion means that people have equitable access to the personal, social, economic and civic resources and relationships that make life healthy, productive and happy.

walkable neighbourhoods: means communities designed to a pedestrian scale with characteristics that invite people to walk and where daily requirements for goods and services are located within a walking distance.

4. Principles

To achieve the purpose of the State Policy the following principles will be implemented through activities of the Crown and councils for the benefit of all Tasmanians. No one principle should be read in isolation from the others to imply a particular action or consequence.

P1. Use and development in cities and towns encourages and facilitates active living and active travel.

Context:

Principle 1 seeks to affect the structure of cities and towns for improved health outcomes by encouraging physical activity as a normal and preferred life style choice.

Priority is to be given to active travel, walking, cycling and public transport that will increase participation in physical activity and support equitable access to the urban environment.

P2. The design of spaces that restrict the achievement of the objective must be avoided.

Context:

Principle 2 is the converse to Principle 1. Principle 2 aims to reinforce the policy that the design of spaces and places that inhibit opportunities for active living and active travel must be avoided.

P3. Spaces and places are safe and support equitable access to a range of facilities and services.

Context:

Principle 3 seeks to influence the structure of cities and towns to have quality public spaces and places accessible to the public. It concerns accessibility to shopping, other facilities and services and open space.

P4. Streets are designed and constructed to provide for a high level of pedestrian and cyclist connectivity and permeability.

Context:

Principle 4 seeks the making of liveable streets where the design of streets and paths is within a framework of a street hierarchy where the speed and volume of vehicles is determined in relation to safe and efficient walking and cycling. Streets within the hierarchy must also be adaptable to changes in the use and development on adjoining land.

Principle 4 recognises that the siting and layout of streets is infrastructure that has permanence and sets the fundamental structure of cities and towns, perhaps forever.

P5. Streets and paths are attractive and safe to encourage walking and cycling.

Context:

Principle 5 seeks to have the design and construction of streets that support pedestrian movement for a wide range of walker abilities and provides an environment for safe cycling.

P6. Public open spaces are provided strategically to local communities for their aesthetic, environmental, health and economic benefits. Public open spaces are safe to use, allow for active living as well as providing urban green space.

Context:

Principle 6 concerns public open space. Parks and reserves and other public spaces impact positively on health. Green public spaces encourage a range of physical activities and provide opportunities for social interaction, food growing and improved environmental quality.

Principle 6 calls for strategic planning for the provision of public open space covering the distribution, function, design and linkages between areas of public open space.

Streets form some 80% of the public realm in cities and towns. Streets provide opportunities as a component of public open space to deliver environmental improvement (eg street trees for improved air quality, to enhance amenity and add to the value of adjoining properties). Streets are an important component for informal physical activity eg shopping socialising.

P7. Mixed density housing and housing that satisfies life-cycle requirements is encouraged to enhance the scope for walkable neighbourhoods to access daily needs and to foster active travel.

Context:

Principle 7 seeks to have a range of housing types at higher densities in local communities. In contrast low density settlement patterns do not support active travel and can raise patterns of car dependency that are not health promoting.

Mixed density housing and walkable neighbourhoods support the provision of local shops and facilities to serve daily needs.

The opportunity to have housing satisfy life-cycle requirements will allow residents to remain in their neighbourhood as age and other circumstances change their housing requirements.

P8. Compatible mix of land uses are co-located to promote active travel to, and between different activities.

Context:

Principle 8 seeks to have a greater integration of compatible land uses to reduce the separation between where we live, work, shop, learn, travel and play to enhance opportunities for active living and active travel.

Increased active travel is linked to mixed land use, higher housing densities, interconnected streets and access to public transport.

P9. Tasmanians at all times have food security through ready access to healthy food.

Context:

Principle 9 seeks to have sustainable local food systems and access to healthy foods embedded into the planning and development of Tasmanian cities and towns.

P10. Buildings and site design actively promotes physical activity

Context:

Principle 10 seeks to have work sites support increased levels of physical activity through the provision of spaces and facilities that promote incidental physical activity. Incidental physical activity is enhanced where the design of the building's circulation system encourages stair use and where there is provision of end-of-trip facilities and convenient access to public transport. Safe access to work places by active transport is enhanced where buildings provide for natural surveillance of outside spaces and the street.

5. Guidelines

- 5.1** Standards, rules, codes, specifications management plans or similar documents may be adopted under this policy in accordance with s.13D of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*.
- 5.2** Section 2 of '*Support for a State Policy for Healthy Spaces and Places – Active Communities are Healthy Communities*' is a guideline under this policy.

6. Authority

This State Policy is prepared pursuant to the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*.

7. Contraventions

Activities arising from this policy do not give rise to a contravention under s.14 of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*.

8. Application

This Policy applies to all land in Tasmania.

- 8.1** Activities of Tasmanian Crown Agencies and Councils are bound to the Policy in accordance with section 13C *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*.
- 8.2** A permit granted in accordance with the provisions of a planning scheme;
(a) approved under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, as being prepared in accordance with this Policy, or
(b) amended in accordance with section 13 of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*, is taken to have been granted in accordance with the Policy.