

# International Charter for Walking

## Local Planning Policy

**VERSION 2**

December 2015

town planning services

Version	Adoption	Comment
1	24 November 2009 Council Item CI023	Final – No objections received during advertising.
1	1 July 2011 Council Item SC001	Final – Readopted under the new City of Greater Geraldton.
2	15 December 2015 Council Item DRS242	Readopted under the new LPS No. 1.

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## 1.0 CITATION

This is a local planning policy prepared under the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* and the City of Greater Geraldton Local Planning Scheme No. 1 ('the Scheme'). It may be cited as the *International Charter for Walking local planning policy*.

The local government may prepare a local planning policy in respect of any matter related to the planning and development of the Scheme area. In making a determination under the Scheme the local government must have regard to each relevant local planning policy to the extent that the policy is consistent with the Scheme.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

The *International Charter for Walking* is a document that advocates the adoption of principles for the sustainable development of towns and cities at the human level. It reflects the concept that walkability is one of the most important measures of the quality of a city's public realm, its health and vitality. Streets that are attractive, safe and suitable for walking are a key factor in community liveability. Pedestrian-friendly streets create opportunities for people to meet and interact, helping to create community networks.

The Charter serves as a guide to decision-makers, both in the City and in the community at large, that walking should be valued as the most sustainable of all forms of travel and that it has enormous social, environmental and economic benefits. It outlines what pedestrians have a right to expect from the City in terms of meeting their travel needs; establishing principles to guide the development of policies and practices that affect pedestrians; and identifying the features of an urban environment and infrastructure that encourage and support walking.

Walking is the only mode of travel that is universally affordable and allows children, youth and people with specific medical conditions to travel independently. Many people enjoy walking and the healthy exercise it provides and it is one of the most common forms of physical recreation. It is a proven method of promoting personal health and well-being and has negligible environmental impact. An environment in which people feel safe and comfortable when walking increases community safety for all. A "walkable community" is designed for people at the human scale and prioritises people over cars.

## 3.0 OBJECTIVES

- a) To have due regard to the document in relevant decision making.

## 4.0 POLICY MEASURES

Refer to the attached "*International Charter for Walking*" that was signed by the Mayor on 25 November 2009.