



Australian Institute of
Landscape Architects

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Dear Dr Rawlings,

Submission: Review of National Cities Performance Framework

LIVEABILITY

Issue 13—New Liveability indicators

Active transport (walking and cycling)

Walkability

AILA Fully supports walkability as an indicator of a liveable city, and would suggest that cycling could be another potential measure.

With the COVID lockdown last year, renewed focus on what is in your immediate neighbourhood. Particularly when residents were limited to radius as small as 1Km of their home. There has been a lot of discussion around 15 minutes and 30 minute cities over the last year.

This has brought into focus the access to quality open spaces and amenity. Walkability and access to open space is certainly a key indicator of how easy it is for someone to get out of their house or apartment.

Even just getting down the lift is a barrier so current best practice benchmarks is 200m as a measure for high density areas, with 400m being the benchmark for

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lower density neighbourhoods.

Walkable cities is a key indicator being used by the Greater Sydney Commission

<https://www.greater.sydney/performance-indicator-walkable-places>

Cycling

We would recommend that cycling be also added a metric as a key measure of liveability.

SUSTAINABILITY AND LIVEABILITY

Issue 14—New Sustainability indicators

AILA fully support the inclusion of Sustainability as a sub theme to a theme in its own right.

Urban tree canopy cover.

We would support the inclusion of tree canopy cover as a indicator of cool green liveable and sustainable cities.

Many cities have already adopted new canopy targets. For example, Melbourne aims to increase from 22% (2017) to 40% by 2040 and London from 20% (2008) to 30% by 2050.

The indicative targets in the guide are to increase the canopy over Greater Sydney by 2056 to the following levels.

- CBD >15%
- medium to high density residential >25%
- low density residential >40%

NSW Government Architect – Greener places strategy has good resources

<https://www.governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/policies/greener-places>

<https://www.governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/resources/ga/media/files/ga/design-guides/framework-document-greener-places-2020-06-02.pdf>

Given the scale of the coverage of tree cover across cities this is highly suited to remote sensing and AI to measure and map.



Aerial surveying is the fastest way to measure this type of cover and there are a number of commercial companies that specialise in this are such as Nearmap <https://www.nearmap.com/au/en> and aerometrix <https://aerometrex.com.au/> and others.

Measuring tree canopy coverage improvement can be done via LIDAR that measures 3D increases in canopy cover, and can be tied into tree loss through change detection algorithms.

An example of this type of measurement via LIDAR is covered quite well in this link.

<https://aerometrex.com.au/resources/blog/urban-tree-canopy-management-and-lidar/>

Issue 16 Planning

Proximity to useable open space

The size and shape of open space impacts its useability and ability to accommodate a range of functions. Road frontage and visibility are key desirable outcomes for local open space.

Old Metrics relating average Ha of open space per person are out of date and very useful.

As a guide the minimum size of a local open space should be 3000m² with the preference being for 5000m².

<https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/premiers-priorities/great-public-spaces>

Yours Sincerely,

Ben Stockwin, CEO

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