

## Policy Type

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Council

## Policy Purpose

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The purpose of this Policy is to set the framework for matters that the City's Officers will take into consideration when evaluating a proposal to close a Pedestrian Access Way (PAW).

## Policy Statement

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- (1) Pedestrian access ways (PAW's) are a feature of many past residential subdivisions in the City of Cockburn (the City). PAW's have an important role in providing access to community facilities and services and form an integral part of the pedestrian and cyclist movement system within residential areas.
- (2) It is acknowledged however that in some cases PAW's are perceived to have facilitated crime and antisocial behaviour. This often results in requests being made by residents living near or adjacent to a PAW for the PAW to be closed. Most, if not all, PAW's are used legitimately by the public, so requests to close PAW's create difficult evaluation considerations between these two issues.
- (3) Recent State Government initiatives, such as the Metropolitan Transport Strategy, Perth Bicycle Network Plan and Metropolitan Pedestrian Strategy, aim to reduce the use of the private car and promote the alternatives of public transport, cycling and walking. In terms of the structure of an urban area, Liveable Neighbourhoods Edition 4 also recognises that a walkable neighbourhood with a convenient and accessible movement network is essential if objectives of environmental sustainability are to be met. In view of the greater emphasis on walking and cycling in State Government policy, the City should ensure that efficient and effective pedestrian/cyclist movement systems will not be adversely affected by closing a PAW.
- (4) Accordingly, in considering requests to close a PAW, the City must balance the concerns of residents living near a PAW against the wider community need for the PAW to provide safe pedestrian movement – especially for children and the elderly.
- (5) For this reason PAW closures should always be considered as an absolute last resort, and only where security upgrades (lighting, landscaping, and fencing) have been proven to be ineffective and where the PAW has been judged as a non-critical element of the pedestrian and cyclist movement network should a recommendation for closure proceed.
- (6) Subject to an initial assessment indicating that it is possible to progress to a full investigation and the payment of the administration fee, the City's Officers will undertake the process as detailed in the Procedure "Pedestrian Access Way Closures". At the conclusion of the investigation a report will be presented to

Council for their consideration. The results of the assessment of the request to close the PAW undertaken will include but not be limited to the following:

1. The comments from servicing authorities, including the cost of moving services, if necessary, from the PAW;
2. The costs of works to provide a viable alternative access route or other remedies to ensure walkability is not adversely effected (e.g. relocation of a bus stop);
3. The number and details of submissions for and against the closure;
4. The recommendations of the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage from both a land and statutory planning perspective
5. Alternative strategies including the possible review of the R-Coding of lots adjacent to a PAW to allow development of the rear portion of these lots with access from the PAW to increase usage and surveillance; and
6. Any alternative to closure being re-vestment of PAW to public utilities reserve with barriers and gates in situations where infrastructure prevents permanent closure or situations where the demographic profile of the surrounding area is expected to change allowing a future review of the closure.

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