

Just a walk, ride or bus trip away from a healthy future

As Australia struggles with obesity and an increasingly sedentary population, the Government has today kick-started a discussion on how they can support a healthier, more active nation.

The Walking, Riding and Access to Public Transport discussion paper released by the Department of Infrastructure and Transport is a welcome exploration of opportunities to be gained through better planning, more appropriate infrastructure and by encouraging greater participation in walking, riding and public transport.

Megan Motto, Chief Executive Officer of the industry association for professional services firms in the built and natural environment, Consult Australia, applauds the release of the report, noting its significant contribution to public policy debate supporting better cities.

“The Government has today confirmed its commitment to ensuring the productivity, sustainability and liveability of Australian cities remains at the forefront of the political agenda,” said Ms Motto.

“Minister Albanese is to be congratulated on his continued work to build resilience into Australian cities whilst at the same time improving the social fabric through multiple health and wellbeing dividends.

“Encouraging the uptake of walking and cycling is critical to achieving the goals set out in the Government’s 2011 National Urban Policy.

“This latest draft report helps support a strong and ongoing role for the Federal government in supporting better planning and a more consistent approach between governments.”

Consult Australia has long-advocated for a holistic approach to cities planning and management, with its 2011 report, *Tomorrow’s Cities Today* highlighting the importance of active transport as a priority for healthier, more inclusive and sustainable cities.

“Consult Australia looks forward to working with all tiers of government to bring about more productive, sustainable, and liveable cities and ultimately a healthier, happier nation,” said Ms Motto.

Ends

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For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Director of Marketing and Membership, Cathy Mitchell on 0415 719 428 or via email at cathy@consultaustalia.com.au.

ABOUT CONSULT AUSTRALIA

Consult Australia is the association for professional services firms within the built and natural environment; influencing policy, creating value and promoting excellence.