

DTI:Planning Review

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 26 November 2022 2:04 PM
To: DTI:Planning Review
Subject: footpath widths

Input to planning review:

Encouraging walking in Adelaide and suburbs

One of the pleasant things to do in our area is to go for a walk.

However, many of the paved footpaths on our minor streets are quite narrow, often around 1100-1200 mm. Widths in this range are too narrow for two people to comfortably stroll and chat side by side, or for two wheelchairs to pass each other. Even a single wheelchair needs at least 1200mm for safe and convenient passage – wheelchair plus walker needs much more. That means people have to travel in single file, which is not much fun.

A scan of documents on the Web shows that 1500mm is the minimum requirement for two people to share a footpath.

Currently, when a section of the footpath is replaced, such as when a house is being rebuilt, it seems from my observation that it is more or less automatic that the new infill section simply copies and reinforces the status quo.

I believe and recommend that the first priority in planning regulations should be a width of 1500mm whenever new or replacement footpath construction is needed.

Where street trees or other obstructions are in the way, the path can usually be shaped to curve around the obstruction (as is already the practice in some instances), so that there is only a brief constriction. Doing this retrospectively for the whole length of a street may be impractical, but shorter stretches will still be helpful.

Obviously this will involve more planning and local consultation, and sensitivity to what is already planted there, but it seems to me that it **should be a development requirement, rather than just a 'nice to have' planning guideline.**

Further, since many of these situations result from redevelopment of the block behind, it would seem reasonable in those cases for **the developer to foot the cost of upgrade along their full frontage.**

Sincerely,

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