

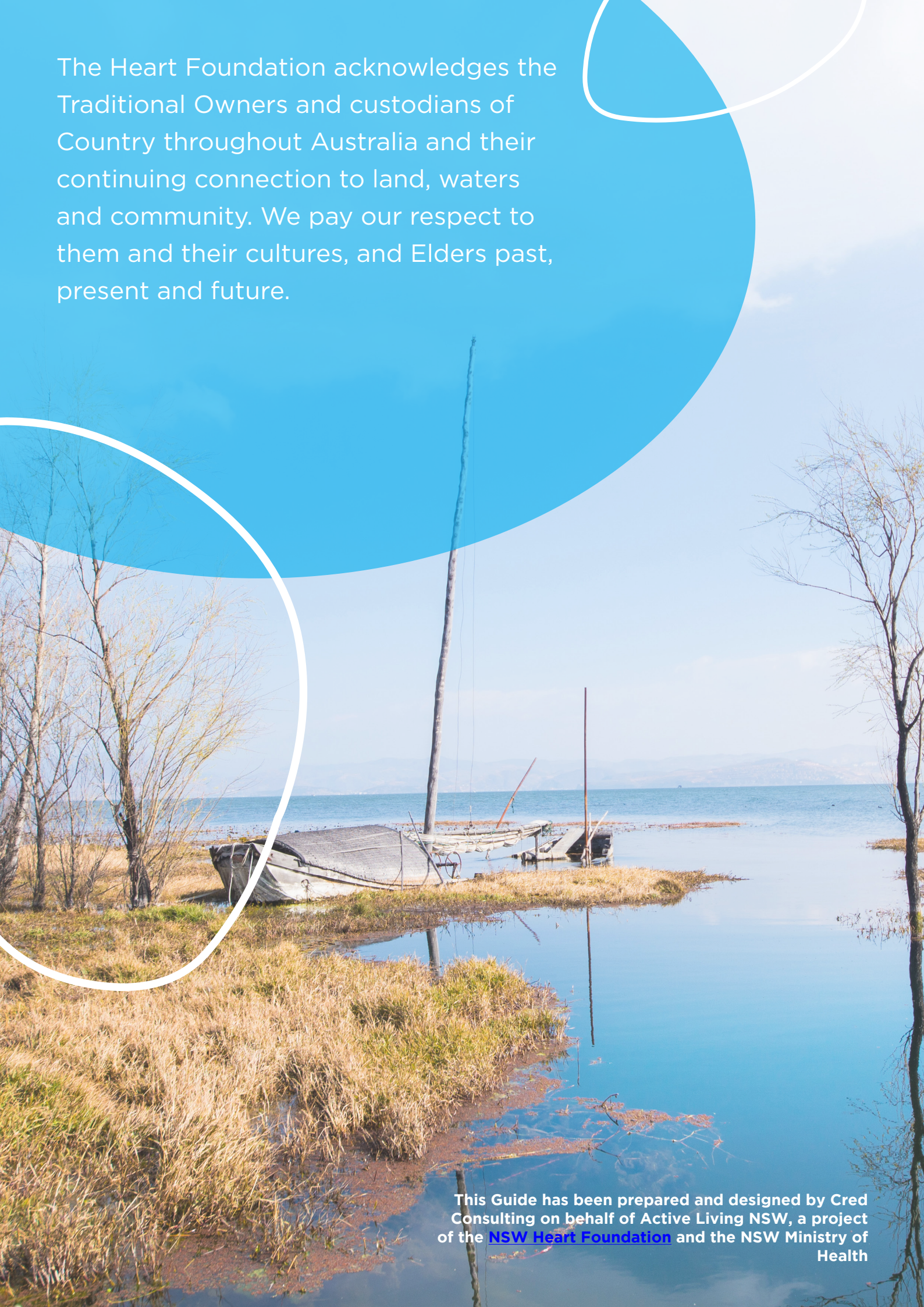
# Achieving liveability outcomes for your local community

A 'how to' for councils and communities





The Heart Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures, and Elders past, present and future.



This Guide has been prepared and designed by Cred Consulting on behalf of Active Living NSW, a project of the [NSW Heart Foundation](#) and the NSW Ministry of Health





# About this document

**This ‘how to’ document provides useful tips and examples to help achieve liveability outcomes through local government strategic planning processes.**

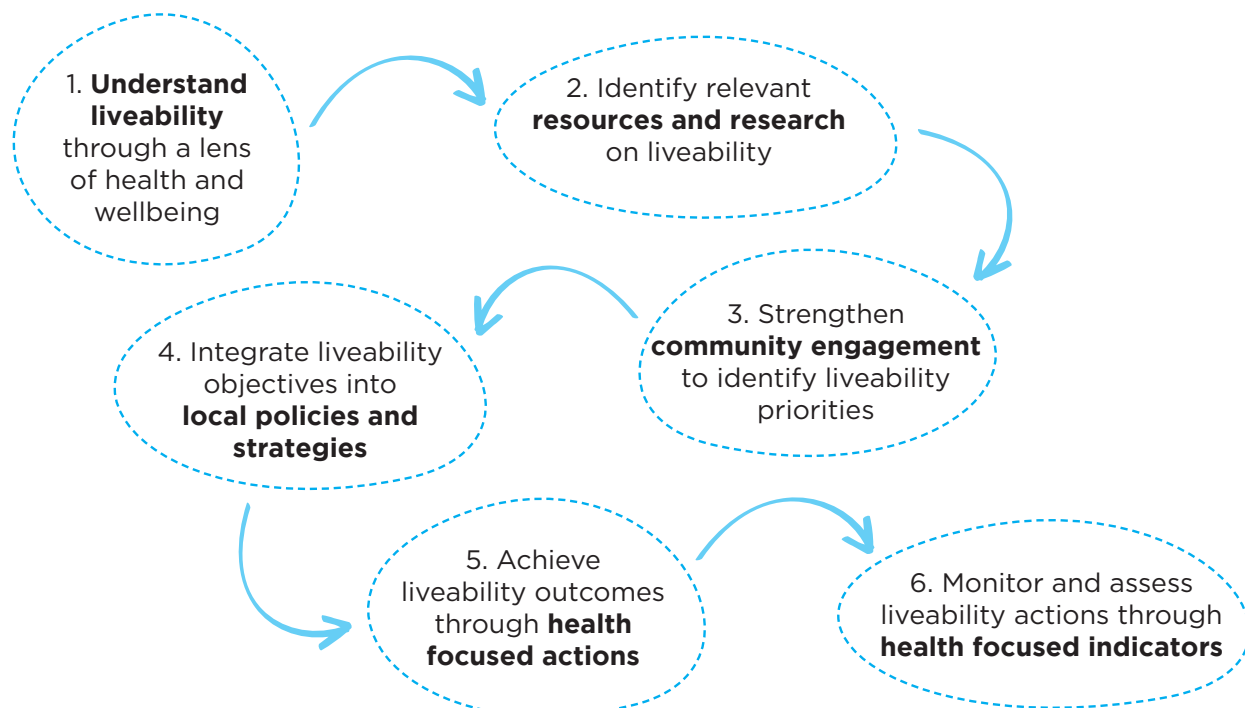
**This document is a companion guide to ‘Liveability and Local Government’ and ‘Promoting Health through the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework’.**

Councils, Local Health Districts, communities and other stakeholders will find this document helpful to embed liveability objectives and outcomes in local government strategic planning processes and plans.

## *What is liveability?*

The term ‘liveability’ is used in this document to cover the key elements of active living and healthy eating which can be influenced by the built environment.

## **This document can help you:**





# Creating liveable places

**Creating liveable places has broad ranging and real benefits for individuals and the wider community.**

**Healthy communities are more connected, participate more in community activities, are more productive, and contribute to positive environmental outcomes.**

**Creating liveable places also reduces the risks of cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, some cancers, and depression.**

Councils undertake a range of activities that help to create liveable communities, including:



Planning neighbourhoods, places, and communities that encourage healthy, active lifestyles, provide a variety of things to do locally, and enable strong community connections.



Providing a network of walking and cycling connections that enable active travel between home, work, school, parks, shops, and public transport.



Providing sporting and recreational facilities and access to quality green open space.



Offering sun protection and reducing heat impacts through shade provision at playgrounds, street trees and green spaces.



Providing healthy food through council services such as childcare centres and Meals on Wheels™.



Promoting mental and physical health through programs and community and recreation facilities that help address key health issues such as obesity, loneliness, and depression.



Promoting safety and preventing injury.





# Local Strategic Planning:

## Community Strategic Plans and Local Strategic Planning Statements

**The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is the community's plan for the future of their local government area and describes their vision aspirations and priorities. The plan also provides a clear set of strategies to achieve these.**

**The Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) sets out the long-term, 20-year vision for land use planning and explains how the council will manage land use change into the future.**

**The following provides some useful tools, conversation starters and examples to use when designing a community engagement strategy and preparing your CSP and LSPS to ensure liveability outcomes can be achieved.**

### **Designing liveability into your community engagement strategy**

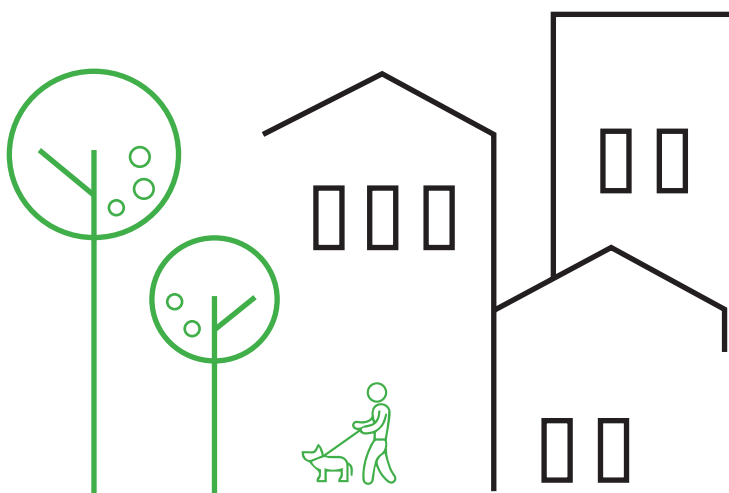
Community engagement is critical to understanding community needs, values and priorities. It is the opportunity for everyone in the community to have a say about their future.

To help engage with communities, councils can:

- collaborate with Local Health Districts on liveability objectives locally. Councils can access health-related data through [Healthstats NSW](#);
- use state-level strategies to informing the CSP and LSPS e.g. Premier's Priorities, Regional and District Plans;
- continue the conversation with local communities when reviewing strategies, plans and policies; and
- continue to build understanding about the local liveability priorities and aspirations.

## Ten example questions councils can ask their community about local liveability priorities:

- 1** Overall, how would you rate your current quality of life?
- 2** Indicate your level of agreement (ie. agree, disagree or unsure) with each of the following statements:  
**Movement Networks**
  - Public transport in my local area is easily accessible and convenient for me.
  - My area is a safe area for pedestrians & bike riders.
  - My local footpaths are in good repair.
  - I'm able to easily walk to a local park or public open space within 10 minutes of where I live
  - I'm able to easily get to essential shops and services via active transport.**Destinations**
  - I feel safe during the day/at night in my local area.
  - There is urban vitality and a good lifestyle quality in my area.
  - Shops and service areas are easy to walk/ride or accessible by public transport and meet residents' needs.**Healthy, Active lifestyles**
  - I have access to a range of recreation and sporting opportunities and facilities.
  - I can easily access and afford healthy food.
  - People in my local area can freely participate in community and civic life.
  - My community is harmonious, cohesive and inclusive.
- 3** What makes (or will make) your local place great to live, work, play and learn?
- 4** What are the strengths of your place and community?
- 5** What is the most important thing we should be protecting in a growing urban environment?
- 6** What does an ideal *[insert LGA]* look like in 10 to 20 years' time?
- 7** What makes you proud to call *[insert LGA]* home?
- 8** What does liveability mean to you?
- 9** Ranking the following themes (most important to least), what is important to achieving liveability in your local place? , *[include a list of themes relevant to your LGA]*
- 10** What actions would increase liveability, health and wellbeing in your community?



## LSPS and CSP strategies and indicators to achieve liveability outcomes

The below table provides example strategies and corresponding indicators that councils can use for the preparation of their CSPs and LSPSs.

Using a mixture of qualitative and quantitative indicators provides a more comprehensive perspective of the progress.

For a more extensive list of example strategies, and indicators, see the *'Promoting Liveability Through the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework'* document, available online: [www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au/resources/active-living-nsw](http://www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au/resources/active-living-nsw).

Strategies	Indicators
 <b>Movement Networks</b>	
Ensure active travel options such as walking, cycling and public transport are readily available, between residential areas, centres and attractions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of residents using active travel options for short trips</li> <li>Number of kilometres of footpaths and cycleways per square kilometre in urban areas; total length of footpaths and cycleways</li> </ul>
Provide streets that are attractive and safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of crime rates per location</li> <li>Satisfaction with safety of public spaces</li> <li>Community satisfaction with appearance and attractiveness of the local area</li> </ul>
 <b>Destinations + Public Open Space</b>	
Provide quality green, open and public space, sporting, and recreation facilities accessible for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measurement of open space per capita</li> <li>Percentage of residents within a 10-minute walk or 400m to quality green, open and public space (for urban areas)</li> </ul>
Provide town centres and other key destinations that are safe, vibrant, and attractive, by day and night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visitation to town centres and key destinations, by day and night - by residents and tourists</li> <li>Number of new businesses and business turn over rates</li> <li>Participation rates for events and festivals</li> <li>Percentage of crime rates per location, by day and night</li> </ul>
 <b>Healthy Active Lifestyles</b>	
Provide a range of physical activity opportunities accessible for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Satisfaction with physical activity programs and initiatives</li> <li>Increased participation in sporting and recreation activities</li> </ul>
Increase community access to healthy food options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in outlets selling food that enables the preparation of healthy meals, close to where people live</li> </ul>
Maintain and extend participation in local and regional food production and exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of locally grown food sold in the local area</li> <li>Number and distribution of local farmers' markets</li> </ul>





# Implementing and Monitoring: IP&R Delivery Programs and Operational Plans

**When community engagement and the CSP have identified 'liveability' as a strategic direction, it must be reflected in the councils' Delivery Program and Operational Plans.**

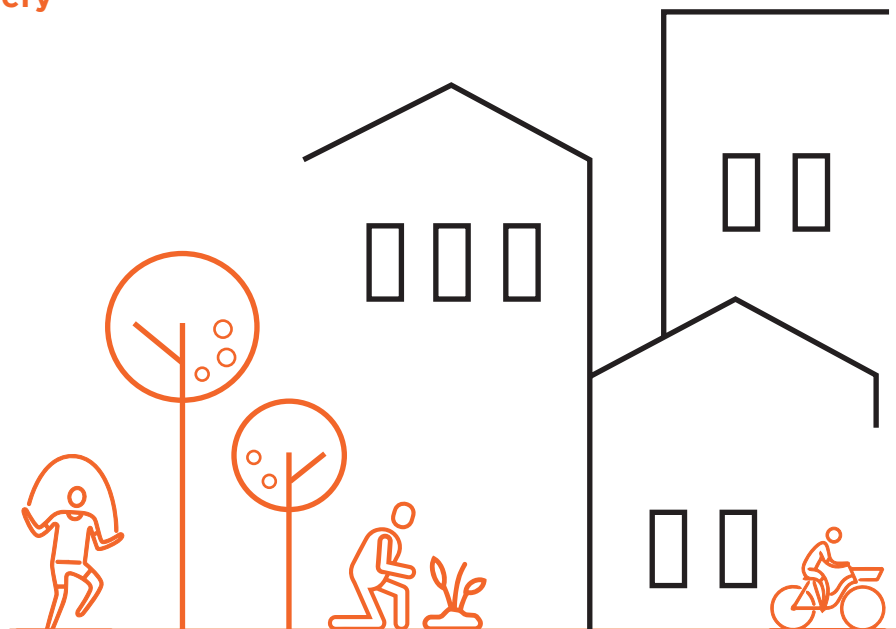
**The four-year Delivery Program identifies the specific actions that respond to the CSP aspirations and priorities.**

**The annual Operational Plan identifies the individual actions, projects and programs that the council will undertake during that financial year to meet the Delivery Program commitments.**

Both the Delivery Program and Operational Plan must include indicators to determine the effectiveness of each activity and action towards achieving the stated objective. There is an opportunity to build in actions focused on supporting healthy environments and lifestyles.




The following tables provide examples of health and wellbeing focused Delivery Program activities and Operational Plan actions along with associated liveability indicators.

Council staff are encouraged to consider how some of these examples could support the inclusion of liveability action in the development of the Delivery Program and Operational Plans.





## Example Delivery Program actions and indicators to enhance liveability:

CSP Strategies	Delivery Program Actions (4-years)	Indicators
 <b>Movement Networks</b>		
Ensure active travel options such as walking, cycling and public transport are readily available, between residential areas, centres and attractions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote modal shift to walking and cycling by promoting the wide range of benefits to people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of journeys to work by walking and cycling by residents.</li> <li>Number of downloads of council's footpath and cycleways map.</li> </ul>
Provide streets that are attractive and safe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement an Asset Management Plan for streetscape assets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community satisfaction with maintenance and cleaning of town centres.</li> <li>Minimise the turn around time for rectification of reported issues and damage to streetscape.</li> </ul>
 <b>Destinations + Public Open Space</b>		
Provide quality green, open and public space, sporting, and recreation facilities accessible for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain, protect, and improve the quality, and accessibility of quality green, open and public space, sporting, and recreation facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community satisfaction rating of open and public space, sporting, and recreation facilities.</li> </ul>
Provide town centres and other key destinations that are safe, vibrant, and attractive, by day and night.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate and encourage an enhanced night-time economy that offers a diversity of activities and experiences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of businesses participating in the night-time economy</li> <li>Percentage of residents and visitors that feel safe at night.</li> </ul>
 <b>Healthy Active Lifestyles</b>		
Provide a range of physical activity opportunities accessible for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver a small grants program to fund community organisations' healthy lifestyle programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number, and value of program grants delivered.</li> <li>Satisfaction with programs and support for healthy lifestyles, particularly for vulnerable communities (ie. newly arrived and migrant communities, older people, people with disability).</li> </ul>
Increase community access to healthy food options.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare and/or implement a community garden policy that encourages private development to include within their open spaces.</li> <li>Identify community land appropriate for community gardens and strategic connections.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of community gardens, by location.</li> <li>Percentage of community land, by location.</li> </ul>

**Example Operational Plan actions and indicators to deliver short-term liveability outcomes:**

CSP Strategies	Operational Plan Actions (1-year)	Indicators
 <b>Movement Networks</b>		
Ensure active travel options such as walking, cycling and public transport are readily available, between residential areas, centres and attractions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review council's Bike Plan against the State Government Guidelines on Bicycle Planning</li> <li>Consult with local bicycle groups and users to identify priority cycleway enhancements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of initiatives aligned with State Government guidelines on Bicycle Planning</li> </ul>
Provide streets that are attractive and safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue program of footpath construction, enhancement, and maintenance</li> <li>Undertake an accessibility audit in collaboration with local disability service providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of scheduled footpath maintenance works completed</li> <li>Accessibility audit completed</li> </ul>
 <b>Destinations + Public Open Space</b>		
Provide quality green, open and public space, sporting, and recreation facilities accessible for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake an open space, sporting and recreation needs analysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and location of facilities that promote active living by location</li> <li>Number of members using sporting and recreational facilities</li> </ul>
Provide town centres and other key destinations that are safe, vibrant, and attractive, by day and night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey residents regarding quality of town centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of surveyed visitors who report satisfaction with the amenity of town centres.</li> <li>Percentage of residents who report feeling safe in town centres at night</li> </ul>
 <b>Healthy Active Lifestyles</b>		
Provide a range of physical activity opportunities accessible for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a survey of community groups and organisations to identify how council can best support their active living programs, or interests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of residents satisfied with active living programs</li> </ul>
Maintain and extend participation in local and regional food production and exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create an online directory of local/regional producers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of page views of online Healthy Local Eating Directory</li> </ul>
Minimise food waste to landfill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trial and evaluate a local <a href="#">Food and Garden Organics Collection program</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of residents involved in the program</li> </ul>

For more example actions and indicators see the full guide at [www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au/resources/active-living-nsw](http://www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au/resources/active-living-nsw)



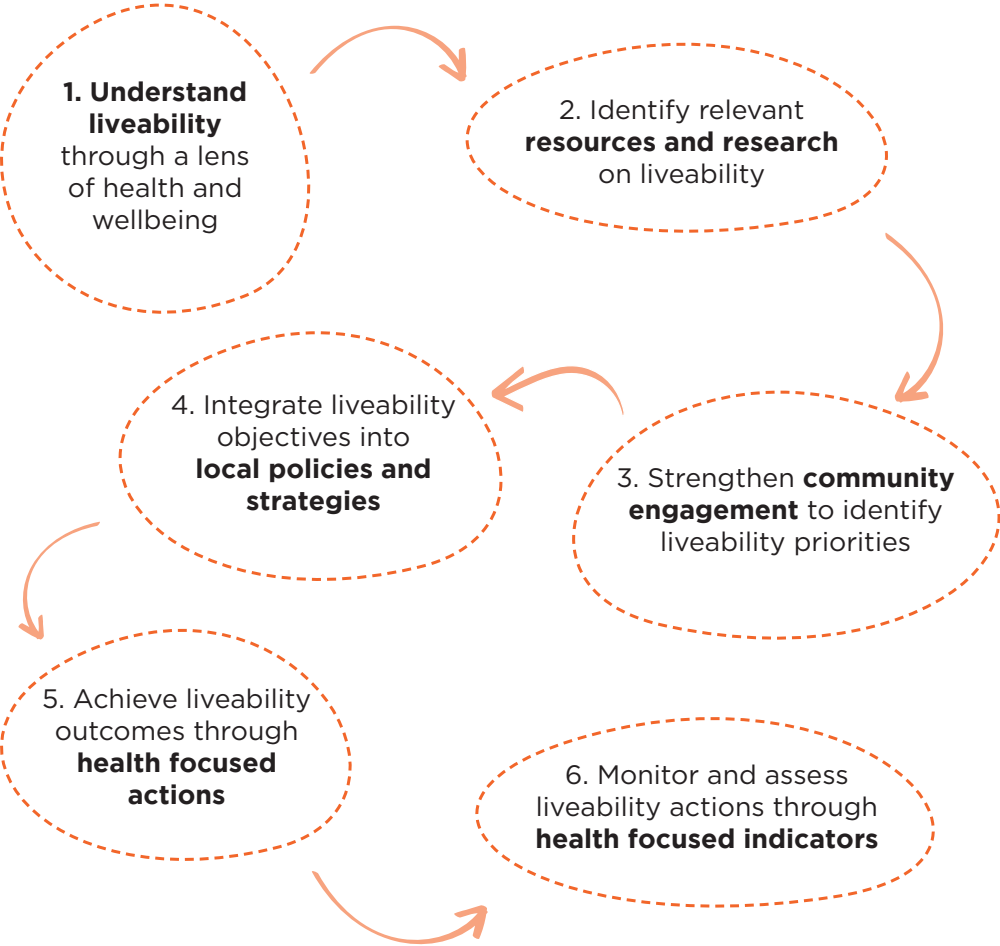


# Achieving liveability outcomes for your local community

! See the full guide - 'Promoting Liveability through the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework' and the 'Liveability and Local Government' at [www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au/resources/active-living-nsw](http://www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au/resources/active-living-nsw)

**Liveability** promotes community wellbeing, through built environment features that enable physical activity (ie. walking, cycling and sport), access to healthy food and connected communities

## This document can help you:



## Snapshot of this document

1. Example consultation questions about liveability
2. Example strategies and indicators to include in your CSP and LSPS
3. Possible actions to deliver liveability outcomes that respond to community aspirations
4. Operational Plan actions to delivery short term liveability outcomes
5. Possible indicators to measure successful implementation of liveability outcomes

Examples on how to embed liveability themes in local strategic planning processes and policies, and useful tips to help achieve the liveability outcomes, can be found at [www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au/resources/active-living-nsw](http://www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au/resources/active-living-nsw)

Below is a quick checklist of built environment characteristics to create liveable places.

### Movement networks

- ☐ Easy to access active and public transport networks
- ☐ Attract, safe and walkable streets

### Destinations + Public open spaces

- ☐ Quality green open spaces that are accessible
- ☐ Network of vibrant, attractive destinations
- ☐ Safe day and night time activity

### Healthy, Active lifestyles

- ☐ Accessible active and passive recreation facilities
- ☐ Access to healthy food
- ☐ Healthy communities
- ☐ Local food production opportunities

