

**Pedestrian Access Ways**

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<b>Owner:</b>	Planning and Development
<b>Distribution:</b>	All Employees
<b>Implementation:</b>	22 February 2000
<b>Reviewed:</b>	14 December 2004, Item No: PD01-12/04
<b>Next Review:</b>	December 2006

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**Objectives**

The objectives of the policy are to:

1. Provide guidance to Council on the evaluation of applications for closure of pedestrian access ways (PAW's);
2. Guide applicants on the matters Council will take into consideration when evaluating applications for closure of PAW's; and
3. Provide a framework for presenting applications for closure of PAW's to the State Government.

**Statement**

Council recognises that PAW's have an important role to play in providing access to community facilities and services and for general ease of movement of pedestrian and cyclists within residential areas. However, it is also acknowledged that in some cases, PAW's may facilitate anti-social behaviour and crime.

In considering applications for closure of PAW's, Council shall have regard to the following matters (not in order of priority):

**1. *Role Of The Paw Within The Neighbourhood***

In order to inform consideration of point 2 of this policy, PAW's shall be classified in the following manner:

*Continuous Access Route PAW:* Where more than one PAW forms part of an access route.

*Single Access Route PAW:* Where a PAW does not form part of continuous access route.

*Public Open Space PAW:* Where a PAW is located adjacent to a park such that the park itself provides an access route.

Considerations regarding the classified role of the PAW:

Where a Continuous Access Route PAW is proposed for closure, the impact of such closure on the total access route shall be considered.

Where a Public Open Space PAW is proposed for closure, access shall not be viewed as an overriding constraint in respect of such closure. [It should be noted that where a public open space does not provide an access route due to its form of use and management (e.g. a bushland conservation area), then an adjacent PAW shall not be considered a Public Open Space PAW].

## **2. Access To Community Facilities And Services**

- (a) The location of the PAW in relation to community facilities and services shall be assessed. Community facilities and services include:
  - schools;
  - shops;
  - parks;
  - community facilities (churches, libraries, community halls, etc.); and
  - public transport such as bus stops and rail transit stations.
- (b) Where a PAW is considered to provide an important access route to community facilities and services, closure shall generally not be supported.
- (c) Prior to advertising the closure of a PAW a walking catchment diagram is to be produced to show the impact of the proposed closure on access to facilities. Where possible, local issues will also be considered through consultation with community groups.

## **3. Anti-Social Behaviour Considerations Related To The PAW**

Council shall consider the role that the PAW may serve to facilitate anti-social behaviour including graffiti, vandalism, burglary and dumping of litter. As such, applicants seeking PAW closure for this reason should, where possible provide evidence to Council that the PAW serves to facilitate anti-social behaviour by way of photos, police case numbers or police reports.

## **4. Access For The Disabled And Seniors**

The access that a PAW provides to community facilities and services is especially relevant in cases where seniors accommodation/aged persons homes are located in close proximity to the PAW. Council will also have special regard to access issues for disabled people in consideration of a closure application.

**5. *Availability of Alternative Access Routes***

PAW closure shall only be supported provided a viable alternative access route is available. A ‘viable alternative access route’ is considered to be an access route which shall not result in a substantially longer walking distance to community facilities and services. Alternative routes need to be safe (i.e. building fronting streets to enhance overlooking, good footpath design) and shall provide a good pedestrian amenity (i.e. shade trees etc.).

**6. *Importance of The PAW To The Pathway System And The Wanneroo Bike Plan***

- (a) Where a PAW forms part of the pathway system, the impact of closure on pedestrian routes shall be assessed. Where closure would result in a discontinuation of the pedestrian network, in terms of the pathway system, closure shall generally not be supported.
- (b) Where a PAW forms part of the Wanneroo Bike Plan (and updates of that), and where no other viable alternative exists, closure shall generally not be supported.

**7. *Alternatives To The Closure Of PAW's***

As part of the consultation process on and assessment of applications for PAW closures, consideration is to be given to alternatives to improve safety and security through providing lighting, planting, fence treatments and appropriate graffiti removal. Where appropriate conceptual redevelopment options, which increase PAW widths and provide frontage development for surveillance, could also be considered.

**8. *Comments From State Government Agencies***

Comments from public utility agents, such as the Water Corporation, Telstra, Western Power and Alinta Gas together with State Government representatives (Department for Planning and Infrastructure, Police Service and Department of Land Information), regarding PAW closure applications shall be requested and assessed by the Council.

If a dispute exists between Council and the State Government Agencies on the merits of closing an individual PAW then Council will request that the Minister for Lands determine the closure rather than the Department of Land *Information*. The Minister would be acting as an appeal authority in this regard.

**9. *Comments Of Residents Within The Vicinity Of The PAW***

Comments shall be invited by the Council from residents living within the vicinity of the PAW regarding the closure of the PAW. All submissions on the proposed closure shall be evaluated on their merits in accordance with this policy.

**10. *Comments From Users Of The PAW***

Council shall invite comments from residents living within the vicinity of the PAW regarding the closure of the PAW. All submissions received on the proposed closure shall be evaluated on their merits in accordance with this policy.

- 11.** In the event that closure is ultimately rejected, Council shall consider implementing upgrading as per clause 7.

**Implementation**

This policy is to be implemented by Council as a Local Planning Policy adopted by Council under Clause 8.11 of District Planning Scheme No.2. Clause 8.11 of DPS No.2 provides that Council shall have due regard to the provisions of this Local Planning Policy.

**Responsibility for Implementation**

Manager Planning Services