

LIGHTER Infrastructure, AFFORDABLE Improvements, EFFECTIVE Solutions (LAE) Delivering walking improvements sooner

Council is implementing a pilot project installing improvements to the walking/cycling network to increase walkability in Mareeba.

Mareeba LAE will deliver A 4.5 km walking route connecting Mareeba's north-eastern and western residents.

Lighter Affordable Effective (LAE) is a concept based on implementing community-identified, small-scale projects that test ideas and solutions.

Using this approach means that costs and timeframes are usually able to be reduced to deliver improvements sooner. It is less expensive than delivering the traditional method solutions.

The Mareeba LAE project will introduce

- new walking lanes;
- upgrade existing footpaths and intersections;
- improve road crossings;
- provide kerb ramps for accessibility; and
- fill in the 'missing links' in the walking route between Amaroo Park and the intersection of Lloyd and Walsh Streets.

The treatments / improvements are flexible. They can be modified quickly and easily if required – or replaced if necessary - without incurring the substantial costs associated with traditional infrastructure projects.

Planning, design and implementation of the improvements adhere to existing safety and accessibility guidelines and standards.

Sites that have been selected for the LAE improvements are:

1. Constance and Atherton Street Intersection CP01

Work will include upgrading the intersection of Constance and Atherton Streets making crossing safer for school students and their parents/carers, and walkers accessing the medical centre and Mareeba Hospital. The pedestrian crossings will be shortened by extending the kerbs using concrete boundary build outs.

2. CP02 Lloyd and Constance Street intersection CP02

Work will include a new accessible kerb ramp and crossing upgrades, to improve accessibility and safety of residents and school children. Pedestrians will be less exposed to traffic, and drivers will have increased visibility of pedestrians.

3. Lloyd and Walsh Street intersection CP03

Work will include upgrading the intersection of Lloyd and Walsh Streets making the crossing near the roundabout safer for pedestrians. Kerb ramps will be installed for accessibility and a pedestrian island/ safety refuge will be installed making the crossing easier and safer. The work will improve the pedestrian connection to Byrnes Street as well as improve the walking links to the Hospital.

4. Ceola Drive connection to Amaroo Park and Anzac Ave CP04

A walking/cycling lane will be installed along the western side of Ceola Drive to create a continuous accessible walking and riding route between Amaroo Park and Anzac Avenue.

Barrier edging and new sections of footpath will protect pedestrians from vehicles.

New footpath and kerb accessibility ramps will connect pedestrians from Ceola Drive down Hastie Road to Amaroo Park.

This project will provide a significant increase to the footpath connectivity for residents journeying to and from the Amaroo area to the retail outlets on Herberton Street, Walsh Street, Ranking Street and Byrnes Street.

5. Anzac Avenue connection from Ceola Drive to the Central Business District CP05

To extend the continuous walking route from Ceola Drive into the main business area the final footpath connection will be installed along Anzac Avenue.

A walking lane and marked parking bays will be created at the missing connection near Durston Street providing a safer and enhanced walking experience for residents.

These sites support Council's Walking Network Plan for Mareeba and Anzac Avenue Local Area Traffic Management Plan. The improvements include those identified by the local community during the walking network plan development.

By testing cost-effective, lighter, affordable and effective ideas, the walking and cycling needs of the Mareeba community will be improved sooner.

The Mareeba LAE project is proudly supported by the Queensland Government's Cycle Network Local Government Grants Program.

