**Walkable Neighbourhoods**

**Application**

- From 28 September 2020, new assessment benchmarks will apply to residential subdivisions in certain residential zones (except rural residential zones), where at least one road is created or extended.
- The assessment benchmarks outline the standards and outcomes we want to see demonstrated by new development. Many progressive local government planning schemes across Queensland are already aligned with these new assessment benchmarks.
- The assessment benchmarks are matters that the assessment manager must assess against. In their assessment, the assessment manager has discretion to determine the extent the benchmarks are relevant to an application. In this way the new assessment benchmarks will have the flexibility that is required to deal with the many different circumstances encountered by local governments across Queensland.
- A planning scheme may set benchmarks that achieve a higher standard than the Regulation prescribes (e.g. increased pedestrian pathways in very high use areas) and additional requirements in the planning scheme are also relevant assessment benchmarks.

**Assessment Benchmarks**

To support convenient and comfortable walking for transport, recreation, leisure and exercise in the locality of the lot.

**Connectivity**

- For pedestrians is provided through a grid-like street layout responding to the local landscape.

**Block Lengths**

- Are a maximum of 250 metres.

**Footpaths**

- Are provided on at least one side of local neighbourhood roads and on both sides of main streets.

**Blocks**

- Are within 400 metres of a park or open space.

**Street Trees**

- One every 15 metres on both sides of all streets.

**Supporting information**

- [Walkable Neighbourhoods: Supporting information for the walkable neighbourhoods assessment benchmarks in the Planning Regulation 2017](#)
- [Street Design Manual: Walkable Neighbourhoods prepared by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Queensland](#)
- [Model Code for neighbourhood design](#)
- [Walkability improvement tool](#)