

B6 Managing street furniture

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B6.1 Developing a street furniture management policy

Purpose

The purpose of this module is to provide direction on elements to be considered when creating policies on pedestrian-friendly street furniture. This includes furniture on footpaths alongside streets, as well as on walking paths or trails separate from roadways.

Introduction

The design, type and positioning of street furniture have significant impacts on the capacity, accessibility and attractiveness of walking paths. Local councils can develop policies that provide guidance for protecting and enhancing walking environments. These policies would necessarily deal with issues such as signage, bus stops, tables and chairs, benches and advertising boards to ensure that they do not encroach on the continuous accessible path of travel. They may also deal with providing appropriate furniture (e.g. benches, structures to provide shade, and water fountains) to encourage the use of walking paths or trails separate from roadways. Figure B6-1 shows examples of well-placed, functional street furniture for pedestrians.

The appeal of walking paths can be enhanced through selecting street furniture that complements the style and theme of the local area. Materials and designs should be easy to clean and maintain, and should resist and discourage graffiti, vandalism and damage from skateboards.

The safety of pedestrians should always be considered in managing street furniture (see Figure B6-2 for an example of an 'unfriendly' design). While existing standards and guidelines provide adequate safety for individual pieces of street furniture (see the box 'Brisbane City Council Centres detail design manual'),



Figure B6-1
Functional and attractive placement of street furniture to support pedestrian use



Figure B6-2
Pedestrian-unfriendly street furniture layout



Figure B6-3
Pedestrian-friendly street furniture layout

Brisbane City Council Centres detail design manual

This manual provides standards and guidelines for a wide range of street furniture and other footpath elements, such as:

- ▶ landscaping and street trees
- ▶ advertising
- ▶ awnings and umbrellas
- ▶ outdoor dining — tables, chairs, benches, blackboards
- ▶ planter boxes
- ▶ footpath surfaces.

consideration also needs to be given to how pedestrians interact with multiple pieces of street furniture within a short distance along a walking route. Ease of access and movement on the walking path should always be given priority when designing or placing street furniture (see Figure B6-3).

B6.1 Developing a street furniture management policy

A street furniture management policy needs to consider the relevant design standards and minimum requirements. It should also provide for continuous and safe access for all pedestrians.

Additionally, it needs to consider and support overall community goals and objectives for walking and walking programs. It may include such aspects as appropriate spacing of amenities (e.g. benches and drinking fountains) to enhance and encourage walking. The policy should apply to footpaths separate from roadways, as well as those immediately next to streets.

Limiting planning and design requirements to minimum standards can result in walking paths that restrict the flow of pedestrians or limit access for walking groups that require higher levels of service. It may also lead to inadequate provision of walking infrastructure amenities, which could reduce an individual's motivation to walk. Part D provides more detailed information on the design, construction, auditing and maintenance of street furniture as it relates to the pedestrian environment.

The management of street furniture should be coordinated with local walking programs through a consultation process that allows various walking groups and other stakeholders to raise issues or concerns regarding the furniture.



Particular attention should be paid to walking groups that require greater levels of service, such as children, seniors, people with disabilities and people with visual impairments.

Depending on the circumstances, a consultation strategy for input on a street furniture management policy may include seeking contributions from:

- ▶ specific user groups (e.g. residents from a nearby retirement home)
- ▶ local individuals who use the facilities
- ▶ adjacent property owners, such as shopkeepers
- ▶ community groups that support walking programs or are concerned with the pedestrian environment
- ▶ schools.

Additionally, street furniture management policies should include provision for inspection and maintenance schedules that will keep the walking paths safe, accessible and appealing for pedestrians.

References

Brisbane City Council 2004, *Centres detail design manual*, Brisbane City Council (Urban Management Division), Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

For more information

Website: <<http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/pedestrian>>.

Easy Steps is published by Queensland Transport.

