

Draft Variation 306 and footpaths

We support the provision in in Table 2A of Draft Variation 306 (Street network requirements – estates in residential zones and CZ5):

Shared use Access street A: Minimum shared path requirement 1.2m wide shared path on one side only.

Footpaths are places where mothers can push babies in their prams.

Footpaths are places where we can learn to ride bikes, skateboards and roller-blades.

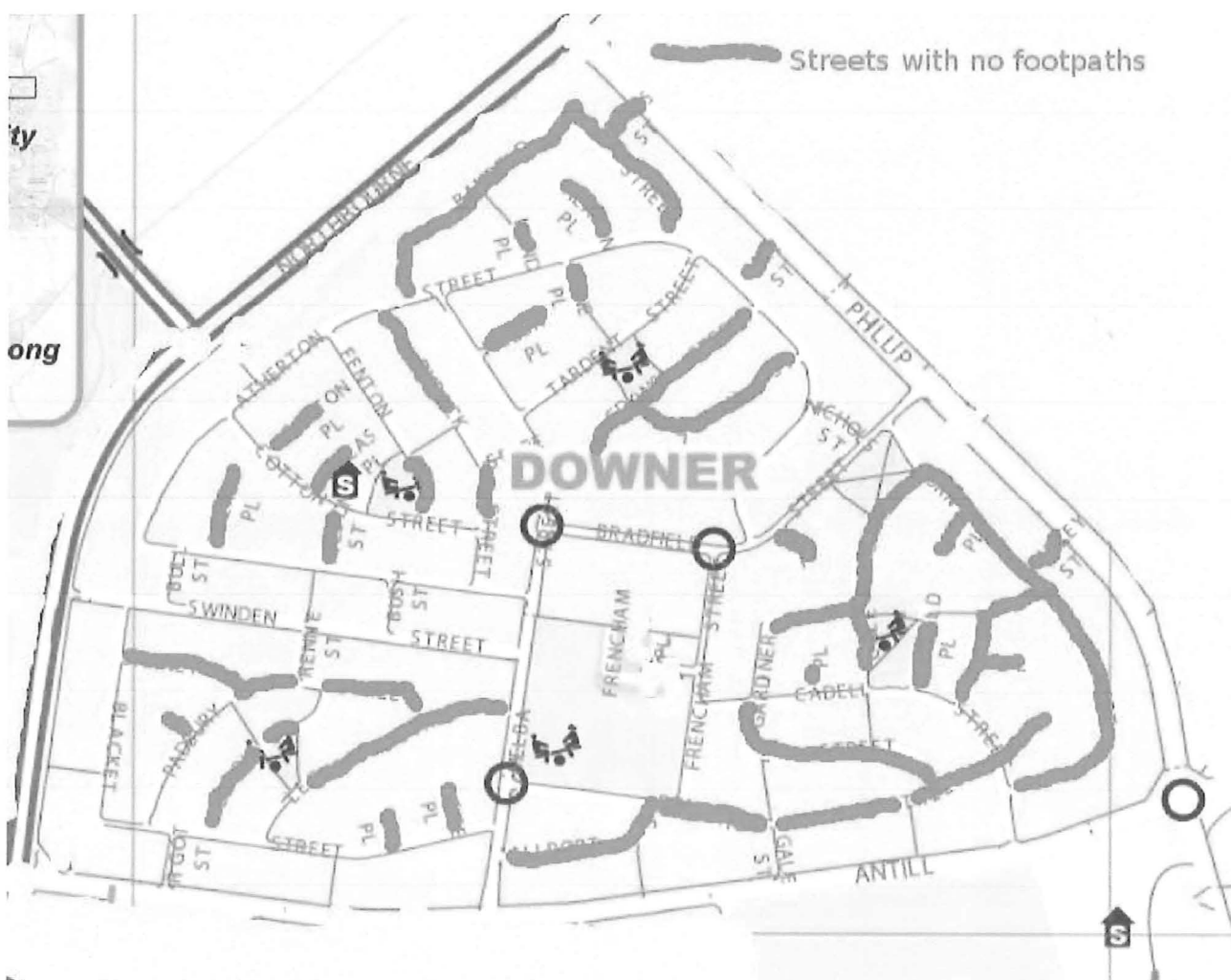
We, and our children, can use footpaths to walk or ride to school, to shops, to parks and to friends.

If we need to travel further, footpaths can take us to bus stops, or to Canberra's network of shared cycling and walking paths.

When we get older, footpaths are safe places to ride mobility scooters.

Without footpaths, our lives are less rich.

Until now, footpaths have been optional on many Canberra streets. The result, as illustrated in the following map, is that only two in five Canberra households has direct access to a footpath, a further two have to cross a road to reach their nearest footpath, and one household in five has no footpath along its street.



Canberra and Queanbeyan Walking and Cycling Map.

As we come up to celebrating Canberra's centenary, we have some of Australia's worst walking infrastructure. In 100 years, we have accumulated a \$100 million backlog of streets that need footpaths.

The Government has allocated \$600,000 over the next four years to maintaining footpaths and building new footpaths. If we continue to fund footpaths at that rate, and devote that money entirely to building new footpaths, it will be 600 years before there is a footpath along every Canberra street. By then we would have a 600 year backlog of footpath maintenance, and we could have another 600 years' worth of new streets without footpaths.

The following photographs show the walking "facilities" along a Canberra street that connects between two community paths.

