

1. Small walkable catchments decrease housing supply capacity and variation.

Smaller walkable catchments reduce the capacity of housing supply. A housing supply decrease leads to less housing variation. If we fail to provide housing choice, then we are compromising the quality of life of future kiwis. Currently, Wellington is lacking in houses; having a choice is a luxury we cannot afford. Access to education, employment, healthcare and transport are pillars of quality life, but food and shelter are necessities. Are we really a first-world country if we cannot provide all New Zealanders appropriate shelter?

2. Larger walkable catchments improve equity.

The size of walkable catchments essentially determines citizens' access to amenities and opportunities. To reduce walkable catchments is to entrench inequity and further entangle the underlying wicked problem of access. Imagine you are priced out of city centres and living on the outskirts of town. You can't afford a dependable car, and often public transport is infrequent and unreliable. You often arrive late to work or school, and you struggle to get to the doctor when you're sick. This is the reality of today's youth. One direct way to improve equity is to increase housing variation by expanding housing capacity near city centres (Objective 3, NPS-UD). More equitable outcomes are achieved when we enable low and middle-income groups the power of choice.

3. Larger walkable catchments help Wellington evolve to tackle climate change.

Increasing walkable catchments can achieve both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Concentrating amenities within a 15-minute boundary reduces the need for short car trips, thereby reducing private transport emissions. The rise in popularity of micro-mobility devices (e.g. e-scooters) also indicates the beginning of changing attitudes towards active transport. Walking and biking are no longer the only options, as micro-mobility options easily turn a 15-minute walk into a 5-minute ride. These active transport modes promote engagement with the city at the human scale; they help us better explore and love Wellington.

To conclude, reverting walkable catchments to 15 minutes does not mean subtracting from existing Wellingtonians. Rather, it means more for all of Aotearoa; better opportunities for those struggling today and endless opportunities for those in the future.



Scooters have become a popular way to get around in Wellington with the introduction of electric scooter share companies, and more available for sale in shops and online. They're cheap to ride, environmentally friendly, fun to use, and can provide health benefits.

Wellington City Council, n.d., *Scooters and bike share schemes*.

<https://wellington.govt.nz/climate-change-sustainability-environment/sustainable-living/low-carbon-transport/scooters-and-bikes>