

EDITION 1
November 2020

Carlingford and Epping Neighbourhood Travel Survey



**CITY OF
PARRAMATTA**



Health
Western Sydney
Local Health District

This newsletter is available in
Simplified Chinese and Korean, go to
cityofparramatta.co/epping-carlingford



Carlingford and Epping Neighbourhood Travel Survey 2019 and 2020

In September 2019, City of Parramatta Council invited you and your neighbours to participate in a survey in order to learn how people the Carlingford and Epping area travel around their neighbourhood.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, we had 618 residents complete the survey, with 525 responses provided in English, 74 in Simplified Chinese, and 19 in Korean.

We're reviewing in detail what you told us in the 2019 survey and are planning the 2020 survey. Look out for more information in your letterbox.



2020 Survey Now Open
go to qrco.de/ec-travel





What did we learn? What did we do?

City of Parramatta partnered with NSW Health to better understand the needs of residents and how daily movement and travel habits can influence their feelings of health and wellbeing.

Since the 2019 survey, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) has closed the heavy rail line from Carlingford and provided an alternative bus service until the Parramatta Light Rail is up and running. Council has installed new shared-paths on the eastern side of Marsden Road and through Talinga Park, created new footpaths in Dunlop Street and Milton Street in Carlingford, and improved a number of pedestrian crossings in Bridge Street Epping.

We are aware that COVID-19 has profoundly changed the way people are living their lives.

We've seen more people walking and riding since COVID-19 and a lot less people on public transport. There are also fewer vehicles on the road overall, but significant challenges around schools, particularly at pick-up and drop-off. We hope some of this information can be captured in the 2020 survey to help us understand better how your neighbourhood is being used through the pandemic.

This newsletter shares some of what we learned in 2019. Overall, you all love your neighbourhood and it seems you are more active than the average NSW resident – good work Carlingford and Epping!

Carlingford and Epping Neighbourhood Travel Survey 2019

What we heard in a sound bite

- 60% of participants usually travel to and from work and/or study by car alone, while 40% catch the train (respondents could select more than one option)
- 80% of participants stated that they never cycle, 45% stated that they believed cycling in their area was 'not at all easy' (a major contributing factor to low bike riding figures)
- Just over 50% of participants believed walking in their neighbourhood was 'somewhat easy'
- When asked about social connection in their community, 41% of respondents believed that this is best displayed by children playing together in public
- Generally, respondents reported feeling safe in their neighbourhood during the day, however they felt less safe at night.



2020 Neighbourhood Travel Survey and more great prizes

With more than 600 Carlingford and Epping residents participating in our 2019 survey we are hoping to have more than 700 residents share their thoughts in the 2020 survey.

We'll be focussed on the same geographical area and be asking the same questions about driving, walking, public transport and bike riding. Because COVID-19 had such an effect on our community, we'll be asking a few questions about how you managed through lock-down and what you're doing now.

We'll also be asking if there has been any change to how you travel around your neighbourhood. Have the changes in public transport services, new footpaths or bike paths, or even COVID-19 changed how you move?

Because we value your input we'll be offering prizes for participating in our 2020 survey. You can go into a draw to win one of 20 Go Local vouchers for meals at local restaurants or to use in more than 50 local businesses – each to the value of \$50. 2020 has been a tough year for many of us so we're looking to support our community.

I have a question?

For more information about the 2019 Carlingford and Epping Neighbourhood Travel Survey, or to find out about the 2020 survey, please contact Mark Crispin on 9806 5632 or visit our new engagement portal Participate Parramatta. The project page can be found here cityofparramatta.co/epping-carlingford





Carlingford and Epping the numbers for walking, public transport, bike riding and driving

What you thought about walking in your neighbourhood

60% of you think walking around your neighbourhood is somewhat easy, 11% think it is not easy at all.

You and your neighbours identified footpaths as one of the main reasons for not walking around the neighbourhood. Gaps in the network or non-existent footpaths and narrow footpaths were the main barriers to walking. You also said that streets were difficult to cross. You told us you sometimes struggled to walk up and down hills and that traffic and construction made walking unpleasant.

What you saw as a positive and encouraged you to walk

Many of you told us that having shops close by and having familiar and quiet streets were what made it easier for you to walk around your neighbourhood. Some of you commented on the good footpaths where they existed.

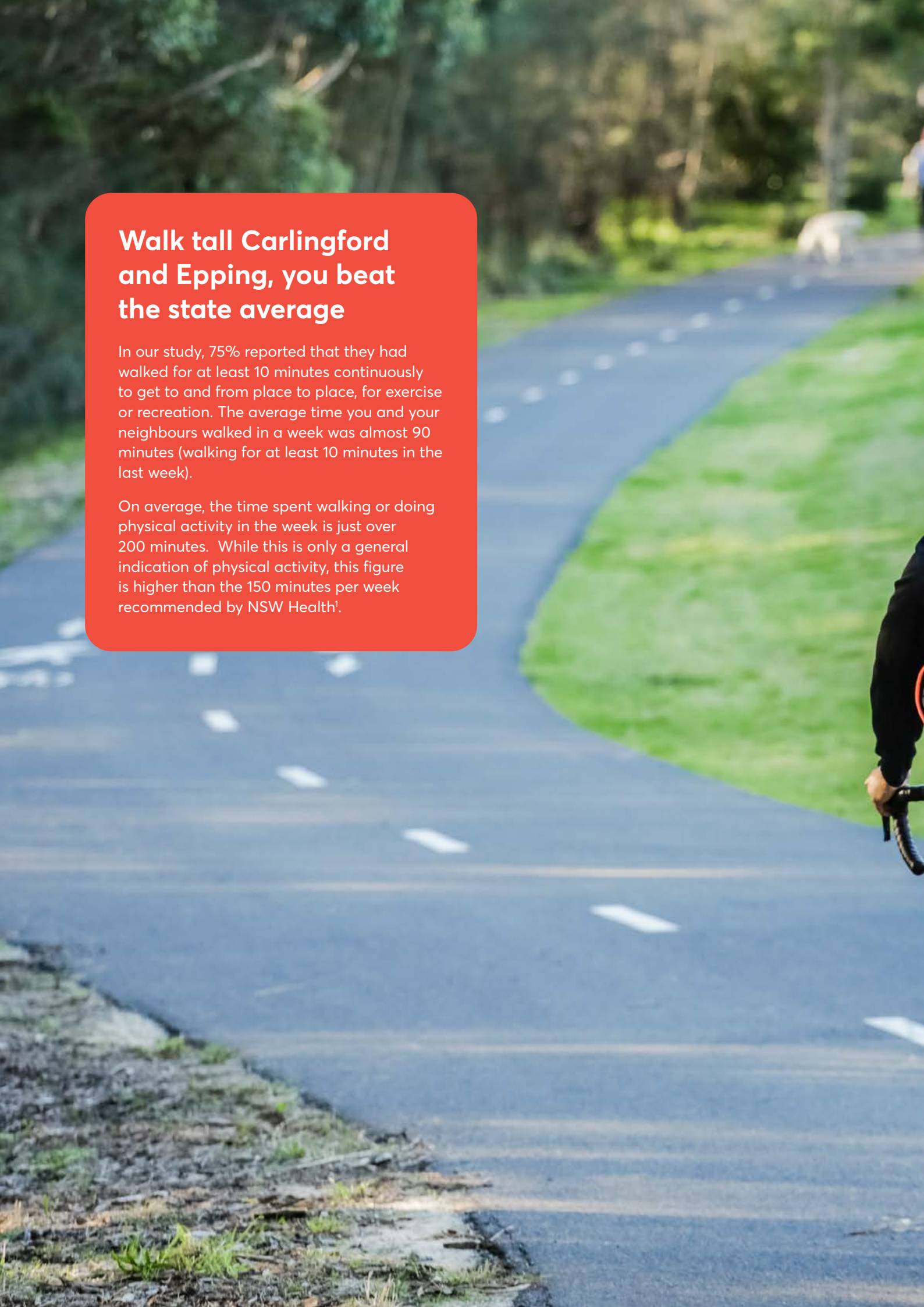
The length of travel time for a journey requiring different modes of transport (walk, bus, train) and no public transport were also barriers to walking. On the plus side, many of you said that bus stops close to where you live and footpaths made walking easier.



Walk tall Carlingford and Epping, you beat the state average

In our study, 75% reported that they had walked for at least 10 minutes continuously to get to and from place to place, for exercise or recreation. The average time you and your neighbours walked in a week was almost 90 minutes (walking for at least 10 minutes in the last week).

On average, the time spent walking or doing physical activity in the week is just over 200 minutes. While this is only a general indication of physical activity, this figure is higher than the 150 minutes per week recommended by NSW Health¹.





Public Transport

One of the things our 2019 Carlingford and Epping survey revealed is that you and your neighbours are public transport savvy.

In your neighbourhood, 27% of people told us their usual trips were made by walking, train (39%) and bus (37%). These rates are higher than the average for the City of Parramatta. The 'Household Travel Survey'¹ data from 2018/2019 shows trips made by people in the Parramatta are walking (20%), train (7%) and bus (7%).

Driving

We asked 'How often do you usually travel by car for any purpose?' 60% of participants indicated they use a car 'most days'. The next highest figure was 25% who said they use a car 'a few days per week' and 2% told us they never use a car.

Riding a bicycle

We asked 'How easy is it for you to ride a bicycle around your local area where you live?'

Just under half the survey respondents believed cycling around their area was "not easy at all", only 5% of our group believed that cycling was "very easy" or "easy".

What made you put the brakes on riding a bike?

For the majority it was the lack of dedicated bicycle pathways, that the area was hilly and that the traffic was intimidating and dangerous. Many of you don't own or ride a bike. Among those who got on their bike, 2% said they rode most days, 3% a few days per week, 5% said they rode once a month or less, and that quiet and wide streets encouraged them to ride. The majority of participants (80%) indicated that at the moment, they never cycle.

¹ NSW Department of Health. Centre for Epidemiology and Research (2011). NSW Population Health Survey. Retrieved from: health.nsw.gov.au/surveys/adult/Publications/adults-10.pdf on the 31 January 2020



Kids had a say too the Carlingford Public School Hands-Up Travel Survey

While our letterbox survey was for people 18 and over within the study area in Carlingford and Epping, we made sure kids had a say too.

To understand how students get to Carlingford Public School a 'Hands-Up Travel Survey' was completed in October 2019, prior to new paths being installed in Talinga Park and on Marsden Road.

We asked children from Kindergarten to Year 6 'how they travelled to school on that day'. Students raised their hand to indicate which method they travelled to school by; walking, bus, train, cycling, car, scooter. A total of 725 students participated.

The hands talked – we listened

In raising their hands, students showed us that roughly half travelled to school by car (50%) or walked (48%) that day. The rest of the students either took a bus (1.0%), scootered (0.5%) or cycled (0.5%) to school.

Carlingford Public School and the state

The rate of children being driven to school is slightly greater than the NSW average of 50%², but Carlingford Public students are much more likely to use active modes to get to school, well above the NSW average of 15%.

² Murray, P., Kelly, M. & Connell, L. (2018). Urban Design Study – Active Travel to School. Architectus Sydney. Prepared for the Heart Foundation (2018). Available at healthyactivebydesign.com.au/active-travel-to-school Easthope, H., McNamara, N. & Thompson, S. (2014) Green Square Community Surve.



Social connections and community

Part of our study is to find out about the sense of community in Carlingford and Epping. In our 2019 study, we asked about different statements that were related to social connectivity.

We asked how often you thought certain things happened in your local area and asked you to rate on a scale where 1 is never and 5 is always.

In our 2019 study, you and your neighbours said that two key measures of social connection 'happen often', these were:

- 'Children playing in public'
- 'Diversity in the local community, people of different incomes, ages, cultures and physical abilities in public places'.

Other measures, including strangers chatting to each other and neighbours working together on community projects were reported as only happening 'rarely'.



Your neighbourhood – comfort and safety

We asked you and your neighbours to rate statements about your neighbourhood to explore how comfortable you thought your neighbourhood was and how safe you felt in your local area.

Using a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is strongly disagree and 5 is strongly agree we asked you to consider if...

- There is tree cover or canopy along the footpaths in my local area
- There is lots of greenery around my local area
- The street in my local area are hilly, making it difficult to walk
- There are many shops within easy walking distance of my home
- There is so much traffic along most nearby streets that it makes it difficult or unpleasant to walk in my local area.

About half (51%) of participants believed their area contained a lot of greenery.

Safety

We asked you to think about safety in your neighbourhood and asked how you felt walking alone to the shops after dark or being at home by yourself during the day.

Generally, participants felt safe during the day for activities such as walking to the shops (81%), walking in the Carlingford area (69%) and at home (74%).

You felt less safe walking to the shops after dark. In the Carlingford area 18% of participants said they "never felt safe".

Feelings of safety for residents in Epping and Carlingford areas was lower when compared with residents from Green Square (City of Sydney) who answered similar questions about safety in the Green Square Community Survey of 2014. However, a similar trend was shown that walking around the local area alone after dark increased unsafe feelings.³

³ Easthope, H., McNamara, N. & Thompson, S. (2014) Green Square Community Survey Final Report, City Futures Research Centre, pg. 36 Retrieved on the 30.01.2020 from file:///C:/Users/60080814/Downloads/GS_Survey_Report_FINAL.pdf.



 CITY OF PARRAMATTA

- Be sun safe
- Drink plenty of water
- Share and take turns
- Be kind and friendly
- Care for the play areas
- Have fun

