

Liveability Planning Checklist – “Give it to the Council!”

The lack of liveability design in Tasmanian cities, townships and suburbs tells a sorry tale – one of vigorous resistance to world best practice planning. This should not be so.

De-vitalised – Tasmanian standard



This is Tasmania’s urban look in most of the State’s towns:

- Distressing, neglected, shoddy
- Mentally and physically unhealthy
- Exposed to all weather
- Not water sensitive
- Early industrial poverty
- Economically struggling
- Socially isolating and dysfunctional

Re-vitalised – World standard



These are liveable neighbourhoods embraced worldwide:

- Pedestrian friendly
- Dappled summer shade
- Inviting cyclists
- Safe
- Economically successful
- Ecologically sustainable
- Soothing, socially enabling

Liveability infrastructure planning is now the norm worldwide for ALL projects. But Tasmanian planning decision makers (both elected and appointed) have so far failed to tap into global liveability knowledge. This is not an oversight. It is systemic and doggedly defended.

Tasmanian planning authorities still refuse to take on board the well advanced and rock solidly proven liveability principles that are now universally applied. They pay lip service, but do not use the unambiguous planning guidelines set out by a host of global bodies, such as UN Habitat Local Agenda 21, and a long list of other eminent organizations, research and data sources.

They fail to present to Tasmanians the overwhelming documentation of successful liveability case studies worldwide. Warnings of insurances and re-insurers regarding negligence of Councils towards citizen’s health and wellbeing are also not taken seriously.

In short, planning decision makers need to be catapulted into the new planning age.

Our **Liveability Planning Checklist**, developed by the “Liveability Initiative” under the supervision of planning practitioners, offers a tool to prompt the catapulting. With it you can assess whether a proposed development fulfils the requirements of up-to-date liveability standards and mount a qualified argument for improvements.

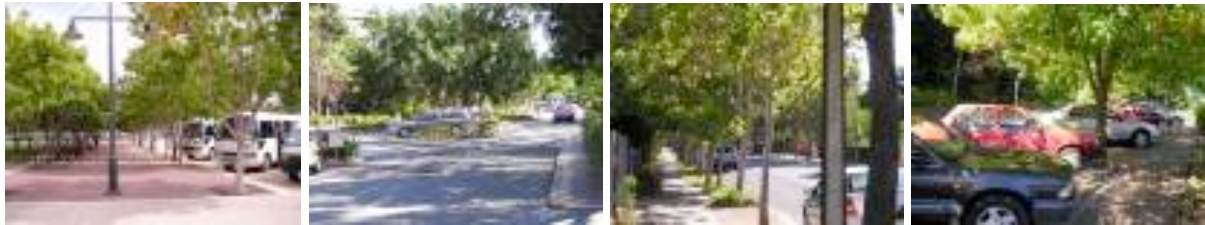
Preface

Most Councils wish to realise economic prosperity, health, social stability, opportunities for all, be accommodating for locals and visitors alike, etc, etc. In other words: they want to achieve liveability. But liveability has a particular look about it and there are core principles and infrastructure that guarantee its success.

Liveability has become a global necessity for health, economic and social survival in agglomerations everywhere. In the last 10-20 years a massive worldwide movement has transformed countless urban and township environments to make them far more liveable and – contrary to Tasmanian popular myth – at relatively low cost.

The result is ALWAYS an increase in vitality, diversity, social inclusion as well as healthier and more active populations, economic success and increased visitor interest.

There is no lack of publicly available positive experience and reliable data to draw from. Technical and political problems have been solved in thousands of cities and towns across all continents and cultures. The know-how is readily available to those who have a public duty to progress their societies' wellbeing.



Impressions of liveable urban environments (all on the Australian mainland)

Check attitudes and take action

Check the attitude of your Council, councillors, consultants, engineers, contractors, fellow citizens, business owners etc, regarding the necessity for

- Dappled shade and winter sun
- Soft traffic calming, shaded car parks
- Mature street trees at the time of planting
- Water sensitive urban design
- Walkability
- Comfortable everyday cycling
- Tree lined connections between centre, neighbourhoods and outskirts
- Tree nurseries and “grow-on contracts” for mature street trees at planting
- External liveability planning experts in all fields of infrastructure development
- Public planning education and participation methods, that empower all sections of society,

Now compare your findings with the following “Liveability Planning Checklist”

Liveability Planning Checklist

When a project of public significance is proposed, run it past the checklist below to assess its viability in the light of contemporary liveability criteria.

The Checklist provides a reliable measuring stick of what you should reasonably expect from your planning decisions makers.



It's about going from this → to → this

Project	YES	NO	Not known
<i>Is the project consistent with the following principles?</i>			
<i>Social Interaction</i>			
- Pedestrian circulation			
- Traffic calming			
- Public seating in sensible places			
- Sheltered space for public interaction			
- Naturally shaded car parking space			
- Linked to public transport systems			
<i>Economic viability</i>			
- Benefit to the population at large			
- Increase economic sustainability			
- Enhance local small business			
- All costings, tenders, quotes, comparisons for public scrutiny			

<i>Tourism and Recreation</i>			
• Promoting the natural and cultural features that are attractive to tourism and locals			
• Facilitating spontaneous interaction between visitors and locals			
• Inviting visitors and locals to spend more time in attractive open space areas			
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•			
<i>Wellbeing for all</i>			
• Shade trees			
• Reducing UV exposure			
• Minimising noise exposure			
• Facilitating extensive pedestrian movement			
• Encouraging the young to walk and play			
• Encouraging older people to move around independently			
• Providing cycle lanes/paths and bicycle racks			
• More general use of public open space			
• Wide enough footpaths			
• Green buffer zones between pedestrian and traffic			
<i>Environment/Nature</i>			
• Shelter and habitat for flora and fauna			
• Water sensitive urban design (eg seepage, porous pavement etc)			
• Minimise energy input for construction and maintenance			
• Retain, protect natural watercourses			
• Encourage use of sunshine (eg benches facing winter sun)			
<i>Safety and Risk Management</i>	YES	NO	Not known
• Conform to “Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design”			
• Traffic calming and pedestrian safety			
• Adequate but soft lighting of public space			
• Climate change considerations			
- Maintenance budget			
- Modern insurance and re-insurance requirements			



<i>National and International treaties and guidelines</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to successful projects elsewhere? • Adhering to State policies • National planning and building standards • International criteria (eg “UN Habitat Local Agenda 21”, “WHO Healthy Cities guidelines”, “Community of all Ages”, “Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) clear sight lines”, “Child Friendly Cities”, “Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)”, “Cities for Climate Change”, “Zero Injury” policies, “Sustainable Cities”) 			
<i>Technical details</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public planning education and public participation • Undergrounding of services • Planting of proper shade trees • Master plan for 30 - 45% tree canopy cover (responding to high UV radiation) • In line with a master plan • Are all existing master plans for the project area or the region known to the public? 			
<i>Climate Change</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea level rise • Coastal erosion • Fresh water depletion • Atmospheric temperature rise • Factoring in social, economic, environmental consequences 			
<i>In the light of all the above considerations, is the project progressive, liveability-positive and responding to resource scarcity and climate change?</i>			
<i>Conclusion/Comments:</i>	