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Mr Ted Malone
Chair, State Development Infrastructure and Industry Committee
Parliament House
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Dear Mr Malone

The Heart Foundation welcomes the opportunity to provide comment to the State Development Infrastructure and Industry Committee parliamentary inquiry into the Sustainable Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

Our understanding is that the proposed amendments to the current Sustainable Planning Act 2009 are intended to streamline processes and reduce regulatory 'red tape' for development applications.

The Heart Foundation is concerned that planning and approval mechanisms which support healthy, active living are not lost in the search for efficiencies.

Cardiovascular disease (heart attack, stroke and other heart and blood vessel disease) is the biggest killer of Queensland men and women and our costliest disease. Rising levels of obesity and declining levels of physical activity are having a devastating effect on the heart health of Queenslanders and contributing to the rise of many other chronic diseases.

Car dependent and sedentary behaviours are significant contributing factors to the prevalence of preventable disease. The built environments in which we live, work and play need to be conducive to healthy active living. The focus should be on urban development that is higher density, mixed use, walkable and connected.

Healthy planning improves the heart health of our community. Well-planned neighbourhoods can increase the number of people who walk or cycle to shops, schools, parks, services, facilities and public transport. This supports healthier lifestyles for local residents, a more socially vibrant local neighbourhood and brings with it associated economic and environmental benefits.

The Heart Foundation is interested in the establishment of appropriate planning triggers and considerations for the Sustainable Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill aligned with the Heart Foundation's *Healthy Spaces and Places* (2009) guide and best available evidence.

Key considerations include:

- **Local Access** - to increase residential density, intensity of land-use and active transport networks to support local businesses, employment, education, cultural and recreational opportunities, and frequent accessible public transport.
- **Co-location** - to encourage groupings of key destination points within close proximity of each other to improve accessibility, integrated facilities and multiple uses of space and travel networks.
- **Traffic Management** - to manage vehicle traffic to provide safe environments for walking, cycling and other physical activities.
- **Welcoming Paths** - to provide an accessible, attractive and welcoming street environment, with well maintained footpaths for all users.
- **Connected Streets and Linked Communities** - to create connected street networks that allow pedestrians and cyclists to take more direct routes to and from destinations.
- **Healthy Active School Design** - to design and locate schools to facilitate young people's active transport to school, and physical activity while at school.
- **Functional Public Open Space** - to design multipurpose public open spaces that are functional and accessible and cater for the needs of children, adolescents, adults and seniors of all abilities.
- **Community Safety** - to create communities where people feel safe in their homes, in the local streets and neighbourhood public spaces.
- **Food Access** - to ensure that urban design and the built environment does not inhibit but encourages healthy eating.
- **Building and Design Location** - buildings and facilities should provide opportunities for physical activity through ensuring that the design, layout and location enhances amenity and provides an accessible environment for all.

The Heart Foundation urges the State Government to ensure that planning mechanisms and processes which support active living and improve the health of Queenslanders are well integrated into the legislation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Prout', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cameron Prout
Chief Executive Officer