

# Footpath parking Can it be stopped?



Jeanette Ward – Technical Director, Abley  
Chris Teo Sherrell – Living Streets

# Why are we talking about this today?

*'I have a newborn baby & have been trying to get out walking with our pram. I've noticed an alarming amount of vehicles parked over footpaths. I take photos & let the council know but they often don't make it out on time or won't attend after hours.'*

Anne, Rotorua

*'Particularly hard to navigate while walking the dogs and pushing the baby stroller.'*

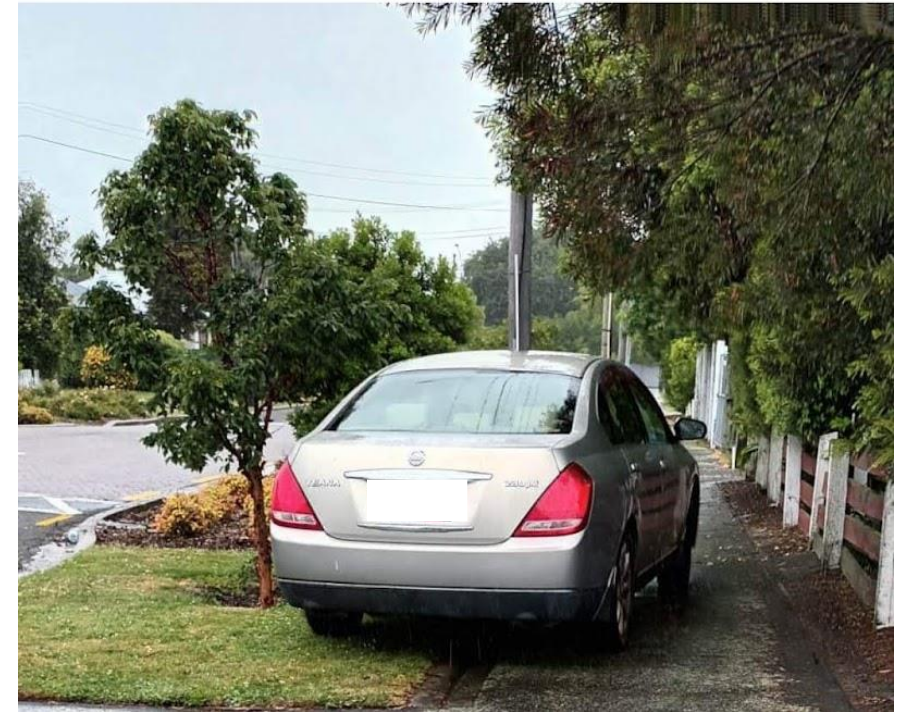
Scott, Lower Hutt

Inner East Burbs - Linwood,  
Phillipstown and Woolston Locals



UPDATE: Thanks everyone for your advice. Complaint and photo evidence just lodged with council 🙌👉

When did our "footpaths" become driveways? My friend 'tripped' into this car because it was obstructing the 'pathway'. My friend is blind. Inconsiderate people are too lazy to park on the road!



# Audience Poll

If you were a parking warden, for which of these situations would you issue a parking infringement notice?



A



B



C

# Audience Poll

If you were in a wheelchair, which of these would be a significant barrier for you?



A



B



C



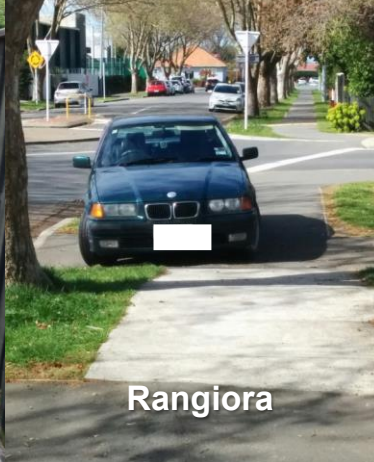
Mt Maunganui



Whanganui



Wellington



Rangiora



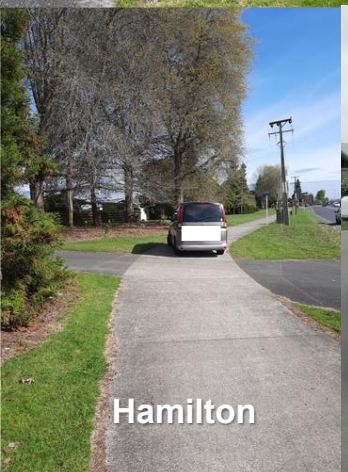
Henderson



Mt Roskill



Napier-Hastings



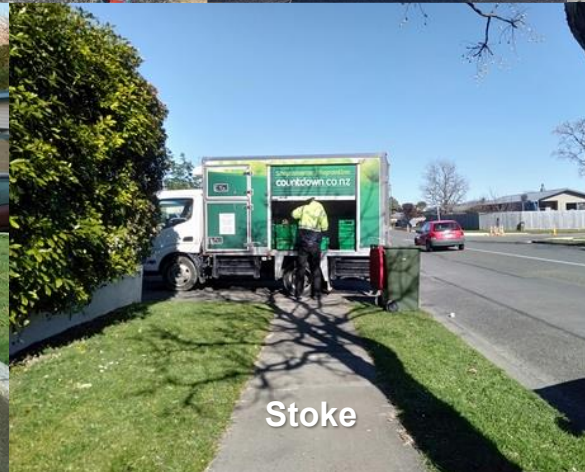
Hamilton



Rolleston



Lower Hutt



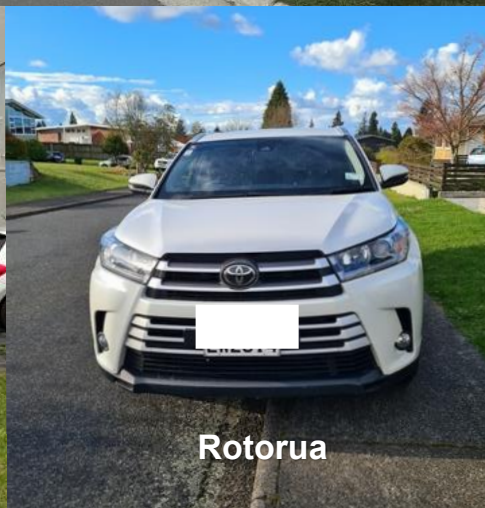
Stoke



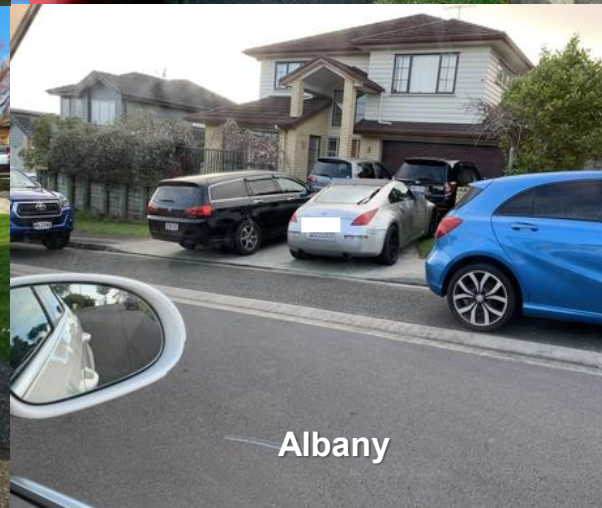
Cambridge



Massey



Rotorua



Albany



Whangarei



Gore

# Why are people parking on the footpath?

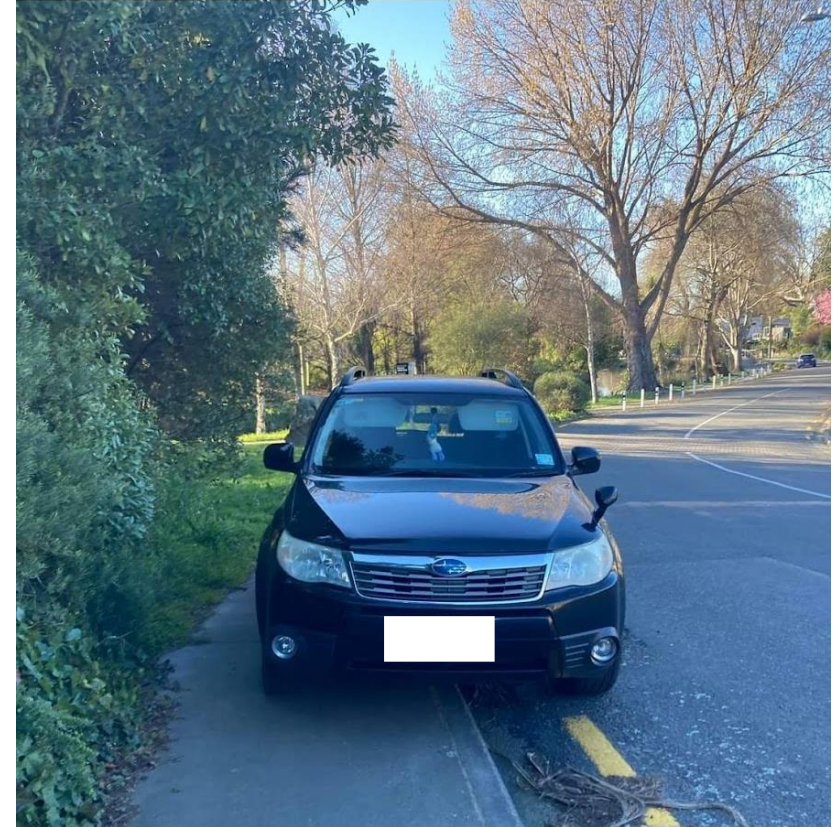
- Laziness – not willing to walk?
- Lack of consideration of others?
- Protect their car from being hit?
- **Think they are making the road safer?**
- Desperation?
- Urban intensification is reducing their options?
- Any other reasons?



St Martins, Christchurch  
Neighbourhood Page



If this is you, maybe consider being a bit more considerate of others with your parking choices...



# The law

- Land Transport Act - Allows RCA to restrict parking
- Road User Rule - **A driver must not park on a footpath!**
- Land Transport Act - Infringement fee of \$70 – still not a deterrent!
- Parking Wardens are empowered to enforce the law
- But there is variability in interpretation of the law and the approach taken

*“We would prefer not to issue any parking infringements, however where a safety issue is identified, we will now be handing out tickets ”*

*“As far as we are concerned the infringement notice is the only education needed”*

# Current enforcement practice

- Most councils do not allocate sufficient resources to enforcing parking regulations
- Several acknowledge that the incidence of parking on footpaths seems to be increasing
- Apart from hot spots they mostly rely on receiving complaints about footpath parking

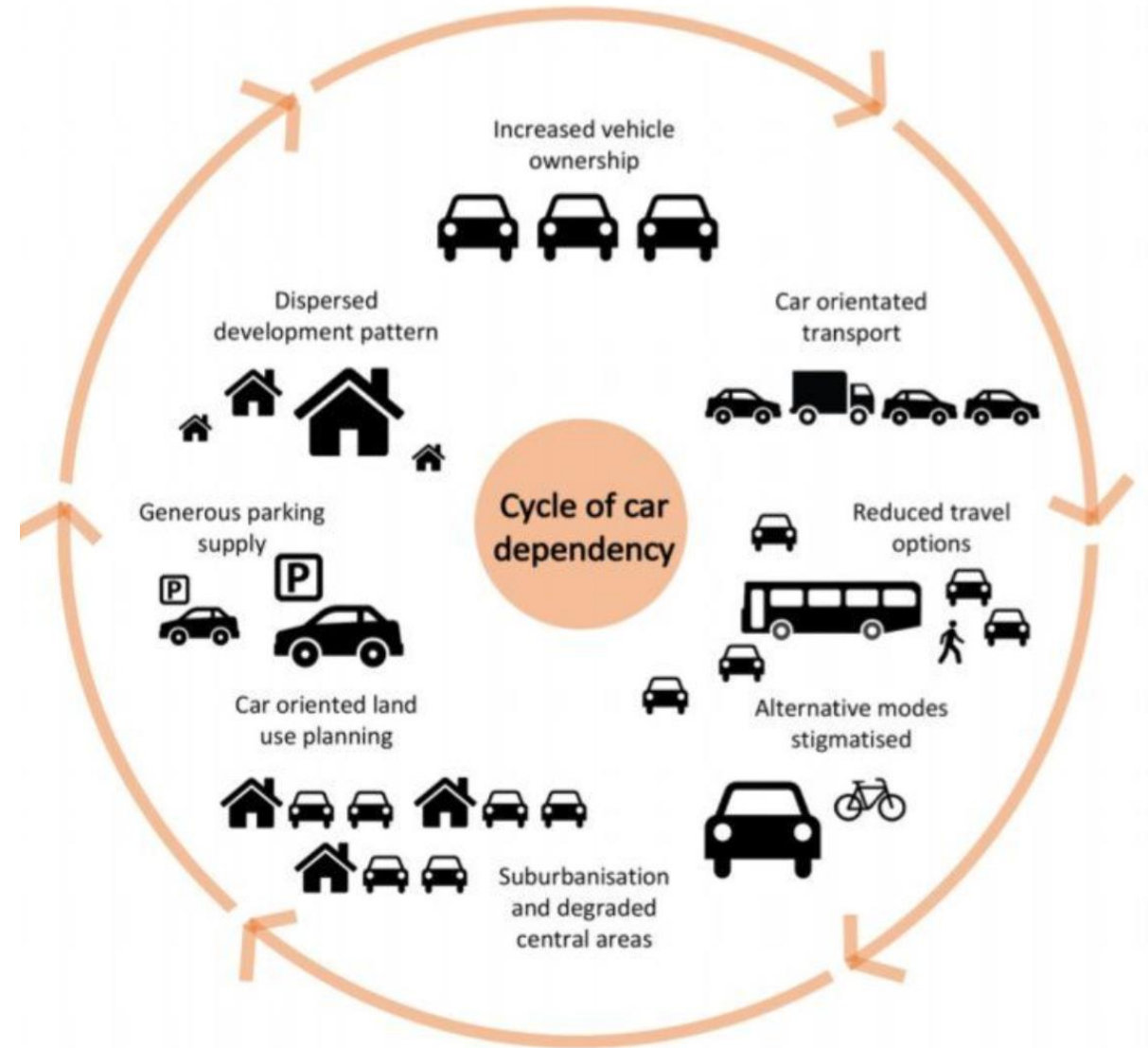
*“Sometimes big cars would block off the whole footpath, leaving a little verge of grass near the traffic for pedestrians to walk on. I started to call the Council every single time I saw this, noting license plates and taking photos where I could.*

*I think I made enough calls, so that enough cars got towed or fined, because I don't see cars parking on the footpath anymore!" but 'Since I stopped the consistent reporting, the bad parking has come back.’”*

Jelena

# The system

- NZ has a high car ownership (approx. 800 per 1000 people)
- We have removed minimum parking requirements in NZ but have not made enough progress on travel choice

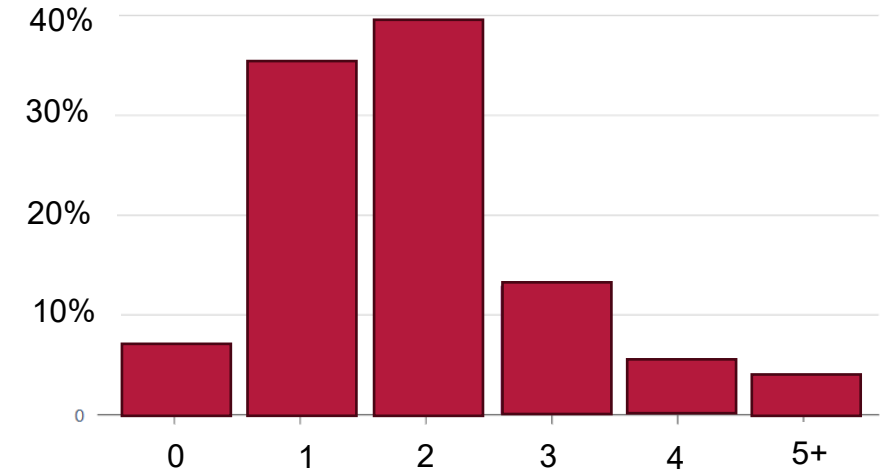


Source: **Jon Herbert on Twitter**

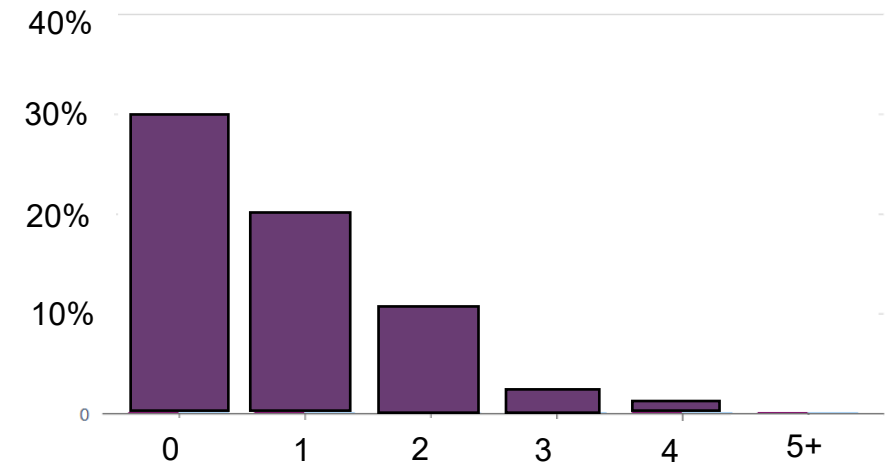
# Solutions: Central Government

- Create policy, regulation and funding that supports reducing car ownership in New Zealand
- Increase the current infringement fee of \$70; to be more aligned with the fine for parking in a mobility space (\$750)
- Set key performance indicators for councils related to infringements in relation to complaints received

Private motor vehicles per household in NZ 2023



AIM Private motor vehicles per household in NZ 20??



# Solutions: Local Government

- Increase the effectiveness of enforcement by:
  - Allocating more resources to this
  - Using modern technology (NPR cameras)
  - Using reports and photos submitted by the public as sufficient evidence to issue infringement notices
- Periodic education/reminder messages concerning keeping footpaths clear for all pedestrians
- Could Local Government NZ be a facilitator of co-ordinated campaigns?



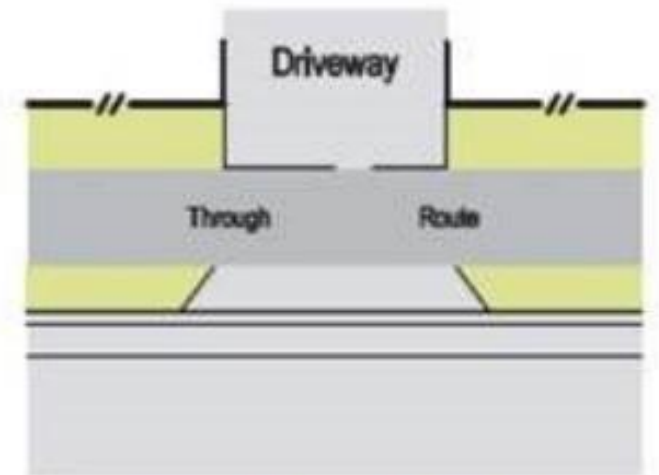
A poster titled "Park Smarter" with a green speech bubble saying "Avoid a fine". Below the title is a blue car icon with green car icons on either side. The text "Please don't park on:" is followed by three categories of prohibited parking areas with associated fines:

Broken yellow lines	Grass berms	Footpaths or driveways
\$100 FINE	\$70 FINE	\$70 FINE

Contact information: 07 838 6699, Antenna, info@hcc.govt.nz, hamilton.govt.nz/parking. Hamilton City Council logo is in the bottom right corner.

# Solutions: Industry – that's us!

- Provide transport choice!
- Design
  - Footpath design – width
  - Driveway surface – do not make the driveway look it has priority over the footpath
  - Kerb choice – some mountable facilitate drivers encroaching onto the footpath
  - Although big utes and SUVs make the above point moot!
- Chat with your enforcement colleagues if you find a hotspot while out and about



*Footpath continuous surface at driveway*

PNG @ NZTA



# Solutions: Community

- Report footpath parking - if councils don't know that a problem exists, they can't fix it.
- Raise awareness through social media.
- Use soft approaches direct to the offenders such as using Living Streets yellow foot card.
- <https://livingstreets.org.nz/>

Yellow Feet leaflets are available free to members and individuals at local meetings, or we can send a small quantity to you by post.

[Order Yellow Feet leaflets](#)



# Solutions: The illegal parkers

- All of the above will contribute to behaviour change
- We want to avoid accommodating it! This is not good reallocation of road space



## Wrap up

- So, can footpath parking be stopped?
- As a collective (central and local government, the industry and the community) we can take a range of actions to reduce its occurrence with the long-term goal of it being eliminated.
- What do you think would help to achieve this?

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