

**Motion:**

**That the Local Government Association requests the NSW State Government to enact the appropriate legislation to make mandatory the installation of an off-road shared pathway network within all new developments – residential, commercial, industrial, and Government. Shared pathways are an answer to childhood obesity and diabetes.**

- 1. The pathways and routes are to be designed in co-operation with the relevant consenting authority, and are to link with an overall Shared Pathway Plan of the consenting authority.**
- 2. To provide, at no cost to Governments, a meaningful safe alternative transport mode to that of the motor vehicle.**
- 3. The pathways are to be at the cost of the new developer and not in lieu of Section 94 levies, which would remain as they are now.**

**Note from Council: Childhood Obesity has been identified as a major health problem that is growing at an alarming rate. Current predictions are that in 20 years 40% of the population will be obese and that the majority of these will be locked in by the age of 10. The cost of this to the Health System will be catastrophic. Two major factors that contribute to this problem are diet and exercise. A lot of attention is being given to diet, very little to exercise. We as the guardians and planners of the local environment have a duty to look to the provision of a safe environment for children and their friends to engage in active play. This motion if acted upon by the State Government, will, at no cost to the State or Local Government, ensure that all new developments will provide facilities, not only for children but also for all other members of society, including the elderly and the handicapped, a safe and enjoyable alternative to the motor vehicle with all the health and environmental benefits that that would produce. The money thus saved will assist in retrofitting to the existing infrastructure, which will become a finite cost and not the infinite ever increasing cost that we now face. To quote NSW Health's recent paper on Childhood Obesity "Physical Activity Suggestions" - Ensure a safe environment for children and their friends to engage in active play, eg swimming, cycling, ball sports, encourage "active commuting" such as walking to school, the bus, or the shops when appropriate. The report also states that 20% of boys and 25% of girls are overweight or obese. The prevalence of overweight adult females grew from 25% in 1980 to 45% in 2000 and for adult males from 48% in 1980 to 65% in 2000. It is our responsibility to create the environment that will help to reduce this alarming trend.**