

Evaluating an integrated active travel network for Wagga Wagga

A partnership project
2020-2023



Transport
for NSW



Health
Murrumbidgee
Local Health District



City of
Wagga Wagga





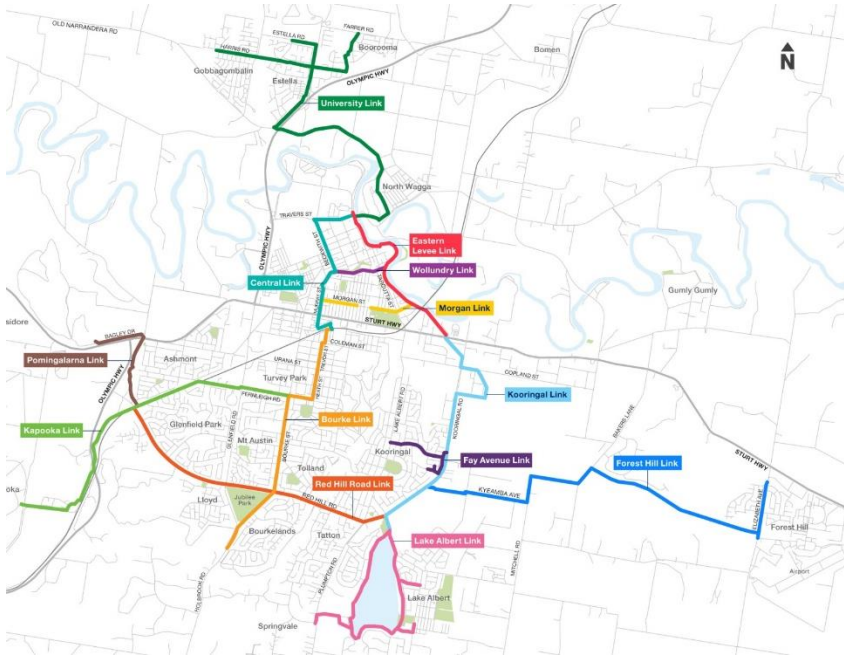
Presentation overview

- The Wagga Wagga Active Travel Plan
- Background to the evaluation project – rationale and how it came about
- Funded by iMOVE Australia, July 2021-December 2023
- Evaluation questions
- Research design and approach
- Data collection overview
- Project progress and challenges to date
- Focus on 2023

Wagga Wagga Active Travel Plan Map



Background to the evaluation project



Existing relationships enabled first discussions

Unique and exciting – ‘first of a kind’, ‘too good an opportunity to miss’

A true partnership project - organisations’ contributions

Potential benefits for the community, organisations, and Government



Why evaluate the Active Travel Plan?

- Measure impacts and benefits for the community
- Provide evidence for planning and decision making
- Share learnings
- Inform and improve future programs
- Size of the investment

Evaluation questions

1. Was the infrastructure completed and promoted as planned?
2. Are there barriers to residents using the pathways, and how could these be overcome?
3. To what extent have barriers already been overcome?





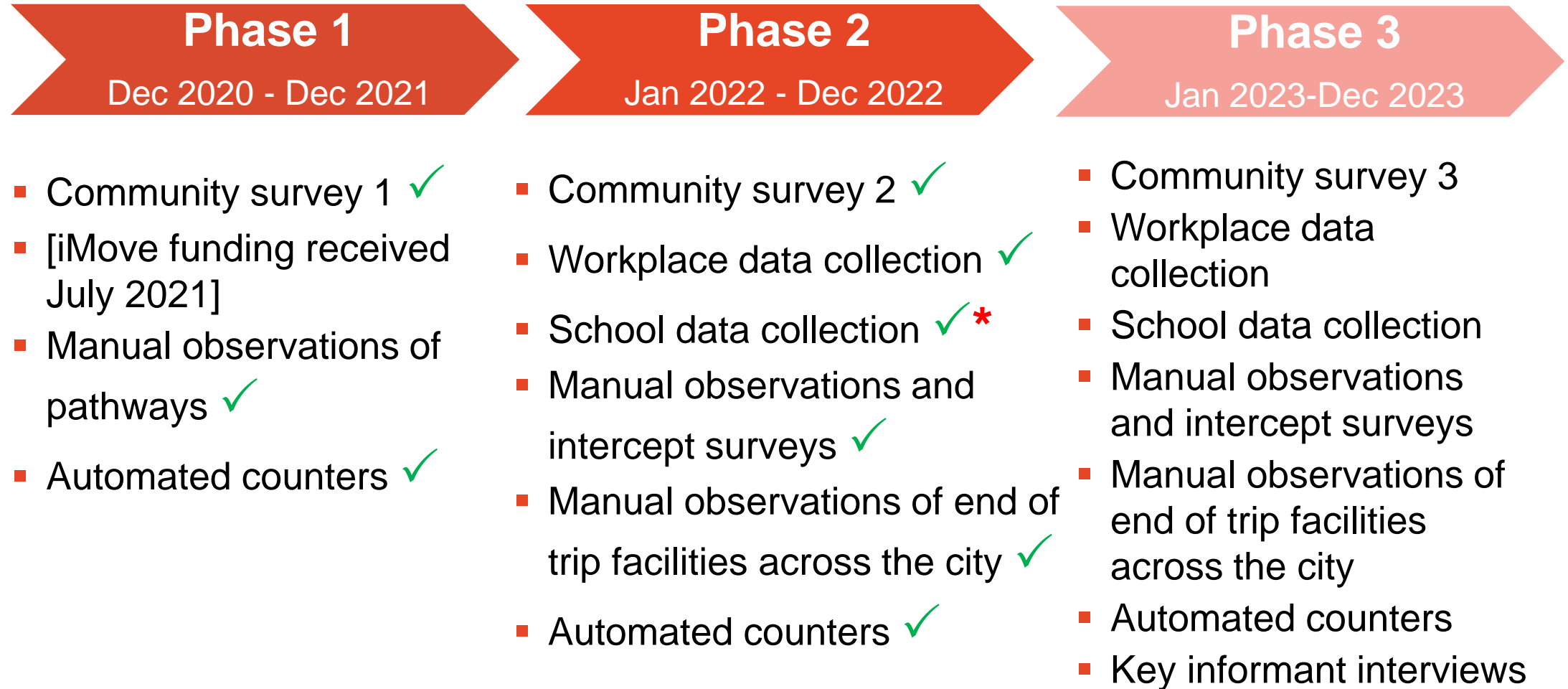
Evaluation questions

4. Do residents have knowledge about how to access the pathways, positive attitudes to using it, skills and access to a bicycle, and intention to use it?
5. Do residents use the completed pathways? Who is using it and for what purpose?
6. How has the Wagga Wagga community benefited from the implementation of the Active Travel Plan network?

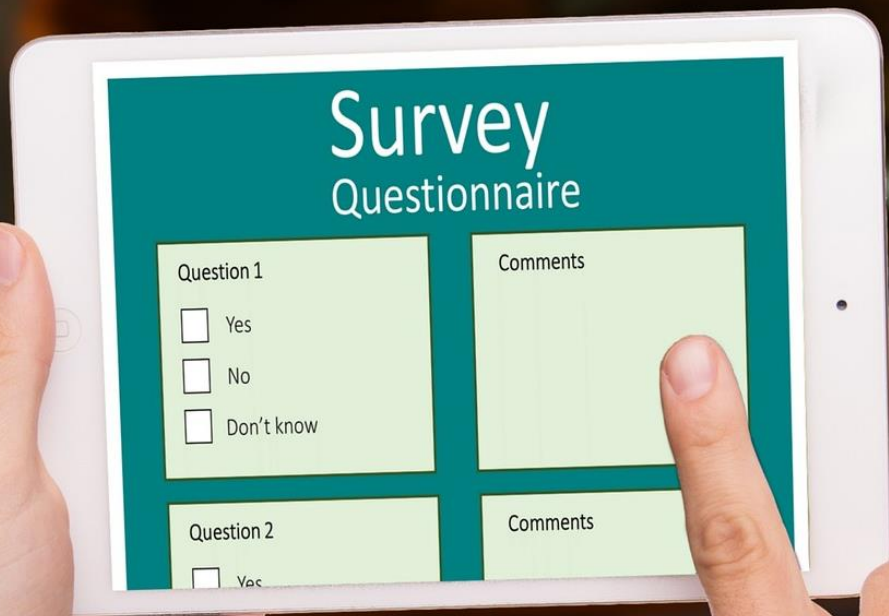
Evaluation design and approach

- Multiple data sources for triangulation of findings
- Change over time: pre – post (2 time points) and series design (3 time points)
- Continuous data - counters
- Quantitative and qualitative data collection
- Use of existing data where possible
- Aligned to the goals and objectives of the infrastructure itself
- Governance
 - iMOVE, and all partners contributing through regular meetings – maximizing expertise and valuing input
 - iMOVE reporting, budget management
 - Partner approval of outputs, dissemination, publicity, publication

Evaluation data collection timeline



Community online surveys – reaching out to the community



Pathway
awareness,
knowledge



Attitudes –
safety,
value, use

How used,
reasons for
use,
intentions



Barriers –
overcome
or not?

Change
over time

Activity levels,
walking,
cycling etc
behaviours

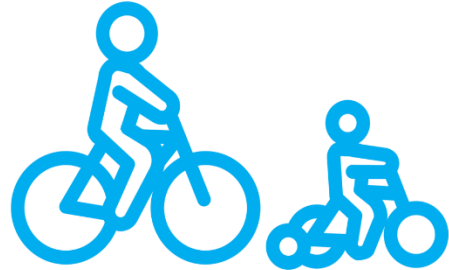


Workplaces – active travel to work – employees and managers

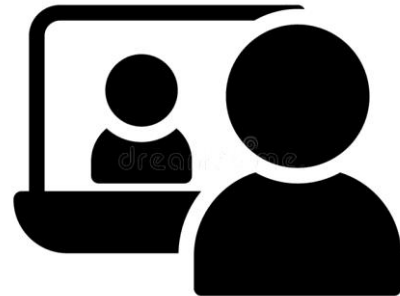
**Bike
To
Work**
HEALTHY LIFE STYLE



Active travel to School

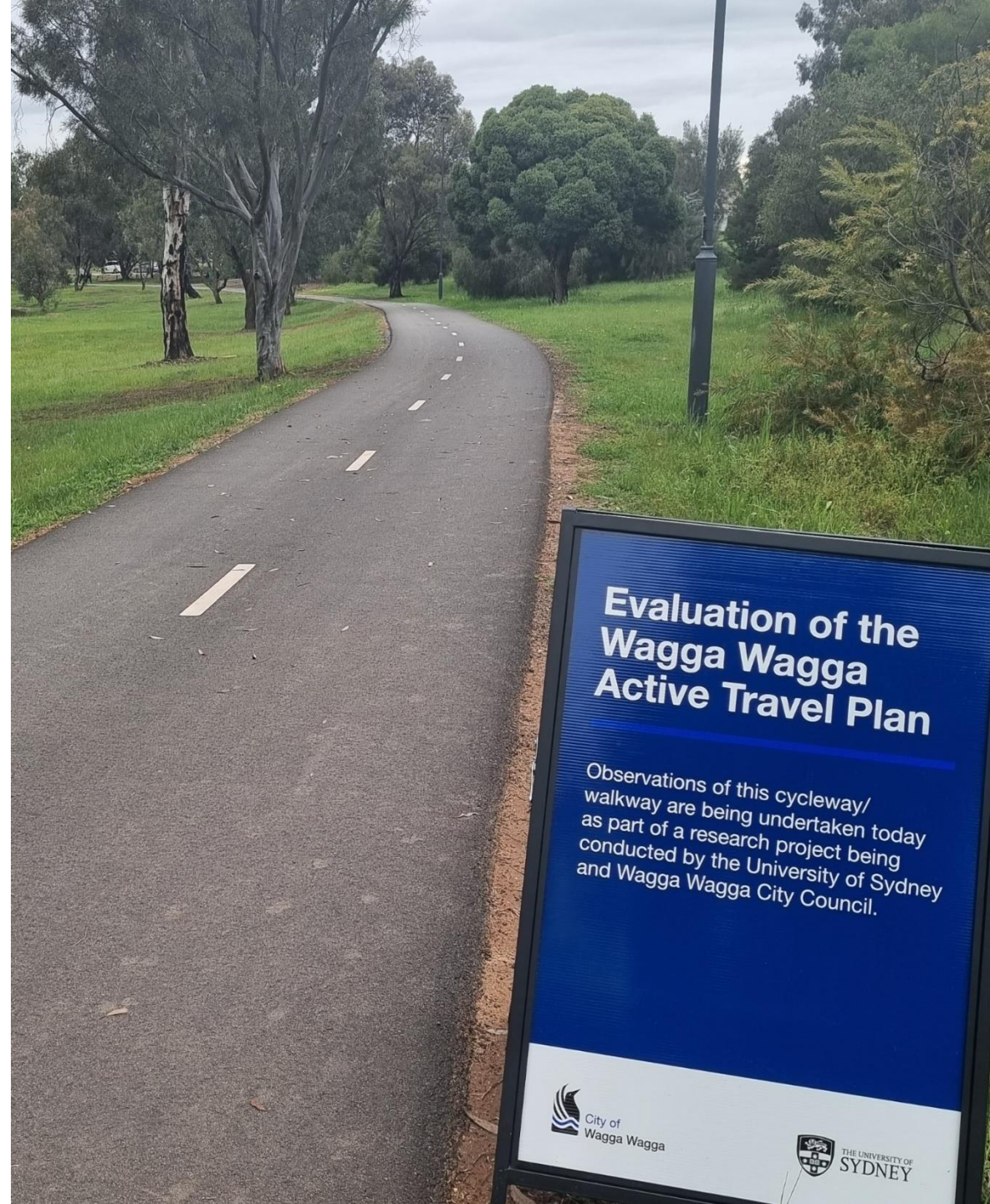


- 31 schools across Wagga Wagga being contacted – 18 Government



Manual observations of use and intercept surveys with users

- 6 links across ATP network
- 2 observers/interviewers
- Data collection involves
 - Observations between 6am and 7pm on one weekday and one weekend day
 - Administration of an intercept survey to randomly selected network users
 - Inter-rater reliability testing of manual observations tool completed prior to data collection



Manual observations of use and intercept surveys with users



Travel mode, users, type of use



Time of day variation

Trip details: reasons, mode, origin, destination



Perceived benefits, value



Perceived barriers



Observations of end of trip facilities across the CBD



- Manual observation of availability and use of end of trip facilities across CBD
- Electronic observation tool using Qualtrics platform
 - Inter-rater reliability testing completed
- Designed to measure
 - Types of facilities available
 - Use





E2 Koorungal Rd Link Eco-Counter

Automated counters

- Two types of counters in use
 - 8 Island Research TRAKER-COUNT counters – monthly manual data collection
 - 10 Eco-Counter Urban MULTI counters – data uploaded automatically to Eco-Visio web portal
- Designed to measure
 - Use
 - Type of user (Eco-Counters only)
- Counters validity testing conducted Aug-2022

Wagga Wagga Active Travel Plan Map



Where are we up to?

- Complete
 - Wave 1 & 2 community survey
 - Wave 1 workplace data collection
 - Wave 1 & 2 manual observations
 - Wave 1 observations of end of trip facilities across the CBD
- In progress
 - Wave 2 manual observations and intercept surveys
 - Qualitative and quantitative data analysis of phase 2 data
 - Protocol paper
 - School data collection

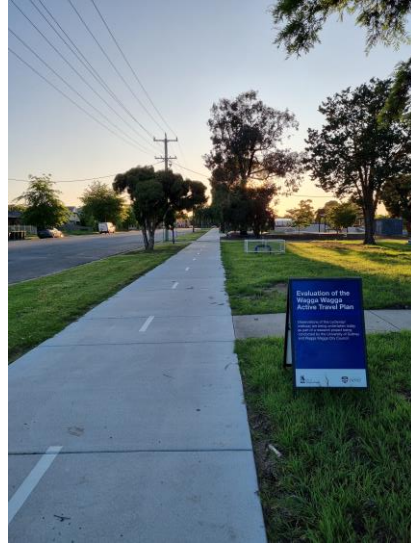


Challenges so far

- Resourcing several data collections that are occurring simultaneously
- Ensuring validity and reliability of data – counters, data collection tools
- COVID-19
 - Changes in typical usage of links during lockdowns and due to work from home
 - DoE ban on conducting research in public schools
- Poor weather and flooding due to La Niña
 - Affecting final completion of pathways
 - Affecting usage of links
 - Hindering manual data collection efforts
- Difficulties recruiting casual staff due to the current job market
 - Affecting manual data collection efforts



Foci for the research team in 2023



- Monitor pathway completion
- Phase 3 data collection
- Data analysis – making the best use of the data collected
- Resourcing data collection
- Managing expected and unexpected challenges
- Explore use of existing data
- Writing up findings for publication
- Plan for sharing findings and learnings

Acknowledgements – partner organisations and all contributing staff

- iMOVE Australia
- Wagga Wagga City Council
- Transport for NSW
- Murrumbidgee Local Health District, Health Promotion Unit
- The University of Sydney (Prevention Research Collaboration)

- **Project Senior Investigators Group:** Ben Creighton, Chris Pope, Brendan Pearson, Fiona Halar, Susan Bullock

Thank you.

Any questions?

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