**Clearing the Path: Walking's Key Role in Low-Carbon Cities**

Almost everyone walks, and uses footpaths. But walking's role – by itself and in conjunction with public transport – in the vital transition to low-carbon cities is often overlooked or marginalised. That applies both to walking's existing contribution to emissions reduction, and the role walking can play in future. It also applies to the increasing trend to take footpath space away from pedestrians.

In this presentation, I will propose that if the transition to a low-carbon transport future is to succeed, and to get the widespread community support it will need to be successful, this marginalisation needs to end. I will look at the ways in which transport and urban planning, funding and practice could better serve pedestrians, using examples from Aotearoa and internationally that demonstrate both the barriers pedestrians face and ways of overcoming them.

Advocates for low-carbon cities, and for the transport modes that enable them, need to be able to work together on matters of common interest, and productively manage areas of disagreement. I will close by suggesting some ways in which this could be done.