

What is Liveability?

Liveability is the sum of the factors that add up to a community, suburb or region's quality of life.

Some of these factors include:

- Built and natural environments
- Offering a temperate (mild) climate
- Transportation
- Affordability
- Infrastructure (pathways, schools, hospitals etc.)
- Safety (crime rates)
- Location to CBD (city centre)
- Open spaces
- Traffic congestion
- Telecommunications coverage (Wi-Fi)

Green Park Shops



Graffiti and Barbed Wire at Shops



What is it like living in Alexander Heights?

Alexander Heights is located in the city of Wanneroo, in the North East part of Perth. The suburb was established in the 1980's and is approximately 3.2 square kilometres. Throughout the years, the population of Alexander Heights has grown, ending at roughly 7924 people at the end of 2018.

It has got lots of useful facilities and is versatile for a range of different families. The houses are well priced, therefore attracting younger families, and there is a variety of housing types that suit everyone who decides to live here. Most of the people who were born overseas, meaning there are a number of diverse languages.

The suburb's logo is a kookaburra surrounded by a yellow sun, tree branches and the name Alexander Heights on a green banner. 'Kooka' is a place for Aboriginal friends and family to come together, have lunch and meet different people.

I have lived in Alexander Heights for three years, and in my opinion, it is a very good suburb. This assignment has definitely reinforced my love for Alexander Heights and how lucky I am to live here.

What are some of the negatives of Alexander Heights?

Even though there are a lot of positive things about Alexander Heights, there are also some challenges that we have to overcome somehow.

Although it is well situated, most people living in Alexander Heights would require a car, as public transport to the CBD and other places such as Morley Galleria and Warwick Grove Shopping Centre would be difficult with young families and is time consuming.

Some people may think that Alexander Heights could be a rougher suburb due to being situated in the middle of less affluent suburbs such as Girrawheen and Westminster, and newer and more expensive suburbs such as Madley and Darch.

On walking around, there is a mixture of how well kept some houses are, which in some cases could put potential buyers off.

There is also a large amount of garden waste dumped in public spaces (parks etc.) which is unappealing to people coming in to the area, and environmentally unfriendly.

People would expect there would be a larger amount of crime in Alexander Heights, but I have never felt worried when walking around the suburb in the late afternoon or early evening.

As described by an elderly couple that I interviewed (who have lived in Alexander Heights for 26 years) thought that little had been improved on the infrastructure (roads, shopping centre etc.) in Alexander Heights since living here. 'The shopping centres seem dated and not very modern,' said Mrs Carnell. They also thought that there had been no improvement in the frequency of the bus timetables, as Mrs Carnell uses public transport quite often.



Range of Housing in Alexander Heights shows how much income residents receive

The Liveability of Alexander Heights

By Tanesha Palmer

What ways can people contribute/intensify the challenge?

One positive way that the community can contribute to improve the liveability of Alexander Heights is if the residents were to participate in the voluntary 'Clean Up Australia' day. This would help the solution of littering.

There are also some negatives that people do to intensify the liveability of Alexander Heights. Vandalism and breakages are seen often, due to youths damaging facilities. The council does not have the opportunity to buy new facilities that the community requires. Instead the money is being spent on replacing old and damaged facilities.

Another issue is speeding; so many people ignore the law and choose to speed around school zones and cul de sacs. This means parents will be more worried about their children being out on the streets and walking to school. There is a lack of community members complaining to police officers about this complication. There are a lot of problems including speeding, and residents need to show their concern about the safety of others.

I have seen a lack of flood lights and lamps up around the local parks. There are always a lot of people spending time up at the parks, mainly in the evening. People have been heard complaining that the lack of lighting at parks makes their time far less enjoyable.



'Light Cubes'

What are the possible strategies/solutions that will contribute to making your suburb more liveable?

A strategy that could help the problem of vandalism and breakages by youths is to introduce more sporting clubs (soccer, AFL, netball etc.) This would keep them occupied, and as a result, will decrease crime. Another solution that could help is community activities (fairs, scavenger hunts, game of cricket etc.). As well as keeping them busy, these activities also encourage them to make friends and communicate with new people in their community.

Alexander Heights also has the Neighbourhood Watch program. Neighbourhood Watch is where neighbours watch out for each other during the workday, evenings, vacations or any other absence. The purpose of this program is to create an alert neighbourhood by using simple crime prevention methods.

Another problem is speeding; some suggested strategies for this problem are adding more speed bumps and roundabouts to the roads to maintain the correct speed. Changing the road layout could help too, making the roads curvier or harder to get around to make sure that people keep to the limit. I have also noticed that police officers are not on patrol very much, so to ensure the safety on the roads, more speed cameras should be installed at traffic lights or around school zones.

Lighting around the parks is also a big issue. Talking to the council is the main strategy. They can install carpark lighting and flood lights. When I was researching about strategies for improving lighting at parks, I found a website advertising 'light cubes'. They are large, cube-shaped lights that have decorative detail on them. They come in materials such as toughened glass, stainless steel, laser etching and electroplating. Therefore, it is extremely hard to damage them. 'Light cubes' are definitely a good solution to the challenge of the lack of lighting.

Garden Waste Dumped in Carpark

