Reviewer’s report

Title: Associations between neighbourhood environmental characteristics and obesity and related behaviours among adult New Zealanders

Version: 1 Date: 23 April 2014

Reviewer: Susan Elliott

Reviewer’s report:

I am going to classify these as minor because I believe the authors WILL address these in an accepted manuscript

1. I think it is key, in the abstract as well as in the body of the work, that the authors compare their results to findings in other parts of the world.

2. It would be useful to know the population level in each of the census divisions used in the work (meshblock and CAU).

3. One of the findings indicates a significant negative relationship between low levels of walking and neighbourhood deprivation. What role does CRIME play in this relationship? Did the authors explore crime, real or perceived?

4. It appears that all food outlets (i.e., grocery stores, fast food, etc) were lumped together. IF this is the case, why and what impact is this having on the results?

5. Does accessibility to sports/leisure facilities include biking/hiking trails?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests.