



Stage 2 Reforms of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002



Lighting

Currently, the Transport Standards requirements for lighting do not provide adequate guidance for lighting designers to deliver appropriate lighting solutions. Effective and functional lighting is critical to ensuring safe, comfortable and accessible journeys for all passengers. There is an opportunity to update lighting requirements to ensure public transport environments deliver effective and functional lighting solutions that are appropriate for the diverse and nuanced requirements of people with disability, while meeting the unique safety, contextual and operational requirements appropriate to their context.

Reform options

Maintain current requirements in the Transport Standards

Transport Standards *Part 20 Lighting*, would remain unchanged and no new guidance would be issued.

Non-regulatory option

Guidance would be updated to include advice on lighting design within public transport environments. The objective of guidance is to ensure public transport environments deliver appropriate lighting solutions for the diverse and nuanced requirements of people with disability, and lighting solutions that meet the unique safety, contextual and operational requirements. A set of transport-specific technical guidelines to provide enhancements to the current Transport Standards requirement would also be provided.

Regulatory option

The Transport Standards would be amended with the aim of ensuring public transport environments deliver appropriate lighting solutions for the diverse and nuanced requirements of people with disability and meet the unique safety, contextual and operational requirements for their context. No change would be made to Transport Standards, *section 20.3 Dimming*.

Four regulatory options are proposed. Further information about each regulatory option is available in the Consultation Regulation Impact Statement.

- **Option 1:** Removal of current requirements and replaced with guidance
- **Option 2:** New Australian Standards requirements

- **Option 3:** New Australian Standards requirements and additional prescriptive requirements
- **Option 4:** New comprehensive prescriptive requirements.

Guidance would be provided for all options.

Case study

Izzy catches the bus to university a few times a week. Izzy is on the autism spectrum and can experience sensory overload from certain light sources. Some nights, she catches the bus with her housemate Sal. Sal has a vision impairment and uses a white cane to assist with navigating.

Izzy's experience today

One evening, Izzie and Sal walk to the bus station from class. As they enter the bus station, bright down lights every 10 meters light the path with pools of harsh light. Izzie avoids the harsh pockets of bright light as she knows her light sensitivity can cause headaches and migraines. Sal prefers to walk in the bright light as it helps her to navigate, however the stark drop off in light between each light post is disorientating for her. Sal and Izzie arrive at their bus platform and wait for the bus. Izzie remembers that she needs to top up her bus pass and goes to the fare machine, which is dimly illuminated by a fluorescent light from above the machine. In the dim light Sal struggles to make out the buttons on the machine as light casts shadows over the controls. Izzie knows that type of light will trigger a migraine, so she keeps her distance and can't help her friend. After some time, Sal manages to top up her card just as the bus arrives. The boarding light flashes on as the door opens. Izzie feels pain and Sal struggles to see the step up for a few seconds. Izzie and Sal swipe their passes and make their way to the seat. The bright door light turns off and once again, Sal has to wait a few moments for her eyes to adjust. Izzie picks sits in a dimly lit spot midway between the front and back door. Sal's eyes are still adjusting and she bumps into a nearby seat. Sal sits down in pain next to Izzie, who feels a migraine coming on.

Izzy's experience under the proposed reforms

One evening, Izzie and Sal walk to the bus station from class. As they enter the bus station, warm, diffused lights wash the path with consistent lighting. Izzie and Sal walk together, the consistent illumination enables Sal to confidently navigate and the diffused, warm light is comfortable for Izzie. Sal and Izzie arrive at their bus platform and wait for the bus. Izzie remembers that she needs to top up her bus pass and goes over the fare machine, which is comfortably illuminated by a warm task light from above the machine. The warm light is angled perfectly onto the controls of the machine and Sal can easily read the buttons. Sal confidently tops up her card a few minutes before the bus arrives. The boarding light is positioned perfectly to illuminate the door so Sal can confidently board. Izzie and Sal swipe their passes and make their way to the seat through consistent diffused lighting inside the bus. Once Izzie and Sal have taken their seat, the bus's interior lights slowly dim to a comfortable level for Izzie.

Have your say

Public consultation on the Stage 2 reform of the Transport Standards will open from 15 March to 9 August 2022.

For further information:

- **Website:** <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au>
- **Call:** 1800 621 372
- **Email:** DisabilityTransport@infrastructure.gov.au
- **Survey:** <https://edm.infrastructure.gov.au/survey.php?sid=28697&name=lighting>