



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



Accessible boarding points: Pontoon boarding points on infrastructure

Currently, boarding points are required to have a firm and level surface where boarding devices can be deployed. However, there is uncertainty on the definition of firm and level in relation to pontoon boarding points as these are affected by wash, wave and wind action in the Transport Standards. There is an opportunity to acknowledge that pontoons are located in a dynamic marine environment, and their design must allow for maximum stability to ensure people with disability can board and alight ferries safely.

Reform options

Maintain current requirements in the Transport Standards

The Transport Standards would remain unchanged and no requirements concerning pontoon boarding points would be added.

Non-regulatory option

Guidance would be updated to include advice on pontoon boarding points, to ensure they have maximum stability and lowest possible gradients in their operating environment.

Specific guidance may include the following:

- Pontoon design
- Guidance on how to lower removable gangway gradients
- Operators may choose to comply with AS3962 (2020) *Marina Design, Section 4 Loading and Stability*

Regulatory option

The Transport Standards would be amended to provide requirements for pontoon boarding points to ensure they have maximum stability and lowest possible gradients in their operating environment.

The Transport Standards would include the following new requirements:

- Pontoons must have a flat and stable surface to which a removable gangway or other boarding device can be deployed.

- Ferry pontoon design must minimise vertical, horizontal and rocking movement of the boarding point as per AS3962 (2020) *Marina Design, Section 4 Loading and stability*.

The Transport Standards Guidelines and / or the Whole Journey Guide would be updated to reflect the new requirements and include specific guidance for pontoon wharves.

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=28709&name=pontoon-boarding-points-on-infrastructure>