



Reform of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport: Stage 2 Consultation Regulation Impact Statement Summary

Introduction

Access to public transport is critical for people with disability to fully participate in the community and the economy. That is why the Australian Government has partnered with the Queensland Government to reform the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 (Transport Standards) to make sure they are efficient and effective, fit-for-purpose and meet the current needs of Australian society. The review is looking at ways to improve the Transport Standards to ensure they meet their objectives of removing discrimination for people with disability in relation to public transport services.

There are two Stages to the reform process. In early 2021, consultation was held with the Australian public on 16 reform areas of the Transport Standards. This feedback provided important insights and was used to prepare a Decision Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) for Stage 1 of the reform process, which was considered by Transport Ministers in February 2022. Information on the Stage 1 reforms can be found on the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communication's website at <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure-transport-vehicles/transport-accessibility/reform-disability-standards-accessible-public-transport-2002/stage-1-reforms>.

This was a valuable process and the Australian Government is now seeking your feedback to support Stage 2 of the reform process. National consultation on the Stage 2 Consultation RIS is open from 15 March – 9 August 2022.

Understanding the consultation

The purpose of the consultation process is to help us understand the extent of the issues and how they impact people, learn more about the contexts in which discrimination is likely to occur, and understand the impacts of the proposed reforms on all stakeholders, including whether the proposed policy options are likely to meet their objectives.

Stage 2 includes 54 reform areas which relate to various issues and cover major reforms to the Transport Standards, as well as minor updates. The reform areas have been split into 61 chapters in the Consultation RIS

(including Part 6: Implementation approach) to help you understand the content of the reforms and provide targeted feedback to individual issues.

54 reform areas are a lot to consider. To help you participate in the Stage 2 consultations and respond to the Consultation RIS, a number of supporting documents and resources have been developed, including reform area fact sheets and different ways for you to provide feedback.

These resources are available on the Department's website at:

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure-transport-vehicles/transport-accessibility/reform-disability-standards-accessible-public-transport-2002/stage-2-reforms>

You may choose to read the Consultation RIS in whole or in part, relevant to your industry, interest, or individual circumstance. You can provide feedback on individual reform areas or the whole Consultation RIS and /or by sharing your story or stories about others (who may be unable to speak for themselves), including what could be done to improve public transport services and remove discrimination for people with disability.

Have Your Say

The Australian Government is seeking views on the Stage 2 reform areas, including how these issues and proposed options impact you (such as costs and benefits associated with the reforms), and whether the proposed options would improve public transport accessibility for people with disability.

There are questions in the Consultation RIS for each reform area to help you provide a response.

You can respond to the Consultation RIS and share your experiences with us:

- in writing, in video or audio recording by email to DisabilityTransport@infrastructure.gov.au
- by telephone (free call) to 1800 621 372
- through an online survey available at: <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure-transport-vehicles/transport-accessibility/reform-disability-standards-accessible-public-transport-2002/stage-2-reforms>
- participating in workshops held during the consultation period

For people who have English as an additional language and require support to read or respond to the Consultation RIS, the Translating and Interpreting Service National (TIS National) is available to provide support in more than 120 languages and dialects. TIS National can be contacted on 131 450.

Next steps

Feedback collected during consultation will inform the development of a Decision RIS for Stage 2 of the reform process. This will be provided to Transport Ministers for consideration, and will include a list of stakeholders consulted, a summary of their views, and analysis of the costs and benefits of each reform area.

The Decision RIS will be made publicly available after consideration by Transport Ministers.

Further information

Further information on how to be a part of the public consultation process is available on the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications website at:

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/transportaccessibility>

You can also contact us by telephone on 1800 621 372.

Stage 2 Reform Areas

Reporting and compliance

1. Set requirements for reporting compliance with the Transport Standards.
2. Set new requirements for communicating accessibility of public transport sites to the public.
3. Increase confidence in using equivalent access solutions while assuring equivalent access does not lead to reduced accessibility.
4. Determine the implementation requirements for any regulatory amendments to the Transport Standards agreed as part of this reform process.

Scope of conveyances

5. Address the uncertainty around the requirements for rideshare services.
6. Remove the exemptions for dedicated school buses relating to mobility aid access.

Accessible boarding points and boarding devices

7. Ensure the identification of lead bus stops is consistent.
8. Clarify technical issues relating to boarding points for ferries, light rail, trams, and buses, such as gradient and cross fall requirements.
9. Provide information on nominated assistance points where passengers can obtain direct assistance and boarding assistance where independent boarding cannot be achieved
10. Clarify requirements for signals to request boarding assistance, and update Australian Standards references.
11. Ensure portable boarding devices have edge barriers to improve safety and confidence for users.
12. Define removable gangways used in a marine environment separately from a boarding ramp used in a terrestrial environment.
13. Set specifications for removable gangways that are distinct from boarding ramps for pedestrians.

Signs, symbols, braille and raised lettering

14. There is an opportunity to adopt more current Australian Standards references relating to height and illumination of signs.
15. There is an opportunity to adopt more current Australian Standards references relating to location of signs.
16. There is an opportunity to adopt more current Australian Standards references relating to symbols.
17. Set the standard and complexity of braille and raised lettering on signage.
18. Specify the standard of braille expected when braille information is provided.

Information and communication technology (ICT) and fare systems

19. Ensure fare payment and validation systems are accessible and update the Transport Standards to reflect the use of digital technology.
20. Set clear requirements for the location of fare system elements, such as access gates, platform validators, validation devices or check-in elements in airports.
21. Set minimum accessibility requirements for ICT procurement.

Waiting areas and appropriate seating

22. Clarify the proportion of allocated spaces in waiting areas and define a waiting area.
23. Specify the proportion of priority seats in waiting areas.
24. Clarify the existing requirement to hold accessible seats for booked services, and provide a definition of appropriate seats to be held.

Lifts

25. Update the Australian Standards reference to AS1735.12 (2020) and adopt further accessibility requirements for lifts such as audible landing and wayfinding information, tactile landing identification, emergency communication, and audible information for hearing aid users.
26. Set minimum clear width requirements for escalators and travellers.

Safety on board conveyances

27. Define and identify a technical standard for active restraints and outline when they are mandatory
28. Define passive restraints and how allocated spaces should contain the movement of a mobility aid.
29. Require conveyances to dwell at stops to ensure passengers can safely be seated.
30. Provide layout and luminance contrast requirements for grabrails in allocated spaces.

Conveyance and infrastructure access paths

31. Ensure flange gaps along access paths in train, light rail and tram networks can be safely navigated by pedestrians.
32. Specify standalone requirements to ensure continuous access on access paths.
33. Require stair and ramp handrails to continue through over-bridges and subways.
34. Set accessibility requirements for automating doors on access paths.
35. Set requirements for the inclusion of allocated spaces at rest points along access paths.
36. Address references to out-of-date Australian Standards for stairs on conveyances.
37. Set luminance contrast and height requirements for doorways on conveyances.
38. Set requirements for grabrails in conveyances along access paths.

Toilets, taxi ranks, loading zones and parking spaces

39. Set specifications for taxi ranks to ensure they are accessible.
40. Recognise on-street passenger loading zones as wheelchair accessible taxi and small conveyance boarding points.
41. Require off-street car parking areas have accessible parking spaces and access paths that minimise travel distance to entries.
42. Ensure left and right hand toilet configurations are provided in equal proportion.
43. Set requirements for accessible ambulant toilets.
44. Require emergency call buttons in toilets are reachable from floor and pan.

Information and communication

45. There is an opportunity to adopt more current Australian Standards references relating to hearing augmentation in infrastructure and premises to align with the Premises Standards and reference assistive listening systems.
46. Set best practice requirements for print size and format.
47. Clarify the requirement to provide information in a reasonable period of time.

48. Set minimum accessibility requirements for mobile web systems.
49. Ensure passengers can communicate in real time with public transport operators prior to boarding, in transit, and after alighting.
50. Ensure passengers have equal access to information concerning their location during journey through visual and audio formats.
51. There is an opportunity to adopt more current Australian Standards references relating to hearing augmentation on conveyances.
52. There is an opportunity to adopt more current Australian Standards references and clarify the existing requirements for boarding and alighting assistance.

Lighting

53. Modernise lighting requirements to take into account new research on lighting temperature, consistency, type, placement and effect on materials.
54. Reference a methodology for calculating luminance contrast for poles and obstacles and identify surfaces against which objects must have sufficient luminance contrast.