



Gangways

February 2021

Gangways provide a path from land to ferry pontoons. Because ferry pontoons sit on water, gangways have unique design constraints imposed by rising and falling tides. As a result gangways can often be less accessible and more dangerous than other access paths, as at low tide the ramp slope can be steep and there are no rest points. The Transport Standards currently identify gangways as static ramps and walkways, referring to them as ‘ramps connected to pontoon wharves.’ This fails to recognise the cyclical alteration of the gangway and tread plate slope. As such, the current Transport Standards are inadequate and make full compliance impossible. The cyclical alterations can also cause compliance issues with landings, handrails, and tactile ground surface indicators.

The Transport Standards may need to explicitly define gangways and have specifications distinct from static ramps and walkways.

Consultation questions

- What are the experiences of people with disability using gangways to access ferries?
- How can gangways to access ferries be improved?
- How successful are the Transport Standards in providing clarity on technical and functional requirements for accessibility of gangways connecting to ferry pontoons?
- How could the Transport Standards be improved to reflect best practice in relation to gangways?
- What are the core differences between a fixed ramp and a gangway from a design and use perspective?

Have your say

There are a number of ways for you to have your say and provide input, including:

- taking part in our interactive surveys
- providing a formal response to the consultation paper
- calling the Disability Standards hotline on [02 6274 6188](tel:0262746188)
- using our online form.

Further information

For further information:

- visit the [Transport Standards webpage](#)
- email DisabilityTransport@infrastructure.gov.au or
- ring our Disability Standards hotline on [02 6274 6188](tel:0262746188).