



Ashfield Council

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10 July 2014

Dear Disabilities Transport Access Secretariat

Re: Draft Report Review of Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport

Ashfield Council is writing with regard to our feedback and concerns in relation to the Draft Report Review of Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport released publicly by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development on 9 May 2014.

Ashfield Council supports all seven recommendations under this report. However some considerations should be made in relation to the following.

- Under *recommendation 3*, the Ashfield Local Government Area is densely populated making access to infrastructure more difficult than many other NSW Local Government Areas. Consideration should be made to ensure Transport Standards are appropriate and adequate for infrastructure housed or moving through congested areas.
- Under *recommendation 4*, Ashfield Council fully supports the development of whole of journey accessibility guidelines and agrees engaging with Local Government during the development of these guidelines is essential to meet the needs of people with a disability. However it is important the guidelines are tested in partnership with State and Local Government, to ensure the common indicators for accessibility are being met.
- Under *recommendation 6*, consideration should be made to support response times for wheelchair accessible taxis especially for those people commuting in metropolitan areas such as the Ashfield Local Government Area where high traffic congestion is an issue. The Ashfield Local Government Area has a predominantly higher level of people requiring assistance compared to other Local Government Areas (Burwood, Leichardt and Strathfield) in Inner West Sydney. The compliance milestones should take these issues into account.
- Ashfield Council supports *recommendation 7* and believes there are occurrences when Local Government is unable to provide resource upgrades of public transport infrastructure due to funding restrictions. Federal and State funding would be welcomed as a means to improve public transport infrastructure in the Ashfield Local Government Area.

We thank you for providing Ashfield Council with the opportunity to comment on the Draft Report Review of Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport. It is hoped that the issues as noted above are taken into consideration in determining the way forward with respect to accessible public transport.

Yours faithfully

Vanessa Chan
General Manager