



17 May 2017

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Mr Marcus James
Road Safety and Productivity Branch
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
GPO Box 594,
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr James

THE WHOLE JOURNEY: A GUIDE FOR THINKING BEYOND COMPLIANCE TO CREATE ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT JOURNEYS

The WA Local Government Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development's release of an Issues Paper 'The Whole Journey' on behalf of WA Local Governments.

WALGA is the united voice of Local Government in Western Australia. The Association is an independent, membership-based group representing and supporting the work and interests of 138 Local Governments in Western Australia. The Association provides an essential voice for over 1,200 elected members and approximately 22,000 Local Government employees as well as over 2.5 million constituents of Local Governments in Western Australia. The Association also provides professional advice and offers services that provide financial benefits to the Local Governments and the communities they serve.

Many of the services and much of the infrastructure delivered for people with disabilities in Western Australia are provided by Local Governments. Local Governments have a responsibility to ensure that infrastructure they deliver meets the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992. As such 'The Whole Journey' guide is an additional tool that Local Governments can utilise to ensure that they are meeting this requirement. WALGA welcomes the addition of this guide at the Commonwealth level, however there are some further issues and opportunities to note.

From a WA perspective it is noted that the Department of Transport (WA) was not invited for contribution to the development of the guide. In previous years the Department of Transport (WA) developed a comprehensive 'Planning and Designing for Pedestrians Guide' which encompassed disability standards and was rolled out to WA Local Governments with a series of workshops in 2012. The guide was reviewed in 2016. Along with the guide, the Department of Transport (WA) developed a walkability audit digital tool. The guide needs to acknowledge this and any other guidelines prepared by other State Governments to assist relevant Local Government staff to implement the standards.

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The guide provides an example of clarifying the responsibilities for bus stop infrastructure in WA (page 23) which omits the Bus Stop Infrastructure Partnership Agreement between the Public Transport Authority (PTA) and WALGA in place since mid-2015. The Agreement addresses the responsibility and ownership of bus stop infrastructure and highlights the importance of communication between the PTA and Local Governments in the delivery of bus stop infrastructure.

From a technical point of view, there is an opportunity to improve the guide with some extra images and diagrams of transport infrastructure. The images could present examples of appropriate infrastructure delivered to the community.

There are opportunities to improve accessibility for tourists with disabilities as part of the guide. Dr Roberta Ryan at the University of Technology Sydney is currently conducting research on this topic which may assist with improved delivery of infrastructure by Local Governments for tourist areas.

The launch of the Smart Cities and Suburbs Program by the Federal Government funding to Local Governments, private companies, research organisations and not-for-profit bodies to work collaboratively and deliver innovative smart city projects. As part of this program funding will be provided for projects that focus on improving the management and maintenance of transport infrastructure in terms of accessibility and mobility, as well as projects that improve the safety, amenity and liveability of community precincts. This may include physical and audio wayfinding. The guide appears to be targeted towards metropolitan areas, particularly with high density to ensure that travel from start to finish is seamless for those with disabilities. There needs to be consideration for public transport journeys in regional and rural areas.

For enquiries please contact Policy Officer – Transport and Roads, Marissa MacDonald, on 9213 2050 or email mmacdonald@walga.asn.au

Yours sincerely



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