

ArupSustainability

Appendix I

Access Assessment



Cox Architects
PO Box Q193
Sydney NSW 1230

08 July 2008
Job No: A07091

Att: Mr Ian McGilvray

Dear Ian,

EVELEIGH HERITAGE WALK – PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE BRIDGE
Review of compliance for access for people with a disability

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the proposed bridge to link the North Eveleigh site and the Australian Technology Park, to be located over the rail corridor on the western side of Redfern Station, complies with all relevant access provisions for people with disabilities at the Project Application stage to meet the requirements of the:

- Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (1992)
- DDA Advisory Notes on Access to Premises – HREOC, June 1997
- Building Code of Australia (2007) Part D3
- Australian Standard AS1428.1 (2001) Design for access and mobility - Part 1: General requirements for access-New building work;
- Australian Standard AS1428.2 (1992) Design for access and mobility - Part 2: Enhanced and additional requirements-Buildings and facilities
- AS1428.4 (1992) Design for access and mobility - Part 4: Tactile Ground Surface Indicators for the orientation of people with vision impairment

Access Associates Sydney have consulted with the design team and reviewed the following drawings, received in pdf format on 18 March and 14 April 2008 prepared by Cox Richardson Architects.

SK 80	Rev A	Cross Section details
SK 112	Rev D	Option 7 – Bridge alignment around existing Building
SK 113	Rev C	Option 7– Landing Australian Technology Park
SK 114	Rev C	Option 7 – Landing North Elevation
SK 116	Rev	Bridge Plan with Fish Net structure
SK 126	Rev	Option 7 Schematic Elevation – North Eveleigh Plaza Towards Railway
SK 127	Rev	Structural Bridge sections
SK 128	Rev	Option 7 – Schematic Elevations
SK 157	Rev	3D renders – Plan and Interior
SK 158	Rev	Steel Mesh and Structure renders

1. Introduction

The proposed bridge to be used by pedestrians and cyclists is to be located bridging the existing railway corridor, between the existing Australian Technology Park (ATP) and the North Eveleigh Rail site.

Pedestrian access is proposed via ramps and stairs on both sides of the bridge.

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access associates sydney



Equitable and dignified access is to be provided for all users of the Eveleigh Heritage Walk to meet the intent of the DDA and BCA Part D3.

The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) and DDA Advisory Notes on Access to Premises – HREOC, June 1997, BCA and the Australian Standard (AS 1428) are the principal mechanisms for regulating physical access to buildings and facilities. While the BCA details access requirements for new buildings and those buildings undergoing significant refurbishment and alterations, the DDA extends beyond the scope of the BCA.

The DDA covers existing premises, including heritage buildings, those under construction and future premises. It extends beyond the building itself to include outdoor spaces and within, to address furniture, fittings and practices and is concerned with providing equitable, dignified access to services and facilities for people with a disability. This does not just include meeting the requirements of people who use wheelchairs but also people who have ambulatory disabilities or cognitive or sensory impairments. Principles of equitable, dignified, independent access for people with mobility, vision or hearing disabilities underpin comments and recommendations of this report.

2. Access Provisions

2.1 Vertical Access

The **eastern side** of the bridge is proposed to include a ramp approx 80.4m in length, designed to meet the requirements of AS1428.1 clause 5.3 to include a consistent gradient of 1:14, handrails on both sides and landings at 9m intervals. The ramp which is proposed to link the bridge deck with the upper Plaza Level at the corner of Cornwallis Street and Marion Street is indicated to be located adjacent to the pedestrian stairs.

Note:

- (i) In ongoing design tactile ground surface indicators (tgsi) designed to meet the requirements of AS1428.4 are to be provided in a band 600mm deep at the top and bottom of the ramp and stairs as detailed in AS1428.1 figures 1 and 17.
- (ii) In ongoing design handrails provided on both sides of the ramp and stairs are to be designed to meet the requirements of AS1428.1 clause 6.1 and 9.1.
- (iii) In ongoing design stairs are to include highlighting strips on the tread at the nosing in a band a minimum of 50mm and a maximum of 75mm wide to meet the requirements of AS1428.1 clause 9.1(c).

Access Associates Sydney note, that generally in the provision of continuous accessible paths of travel to meet the intent of the DDA extensive ramping (greater than 60m length) maybe interpreted as indirect discrimination. Should this ramp be required to provide a direct link to accessible transport or the like, then it would be recommended that a passenger lift be included in the proposed design. However, it is our opinion that in this setting within the limitations of the project and recreational nature of the link as part of the Heritage Walk, the provision of a ramp and stairs at the eastern side of the bridge are acceptable in the provision of complying vertical access to meet the requirements of the majority of anticipated users.

The proposed link from the ATP plaza to the ATP site via the park includes stairs. It is our understanding that the alternate accessible route is via the footpath in Cornwallis Street.



Note:

- (i) We recommend that in ongoing design this proposed accessible path of travel including the gradients, the surface and any kerb ramps are reviewed for compliance with AS1428.1 and compliance be provided

On the **western side** of the bridge at Little Eveleigh Street a ramp designed to meet the requirements of AS1428.1 clause 5.3 to include a consistent gradient of 1:14, handrails on both sides and landings at 9m intervals is proposed as a pedestrian link for all bridge users.

Note:

- (i) In on going design tactile ground surface indicators (tgsi) designed to meet the requirements of AS1428.4 are to be provided in a band 600mm deep at the top and bottom of the ramp as detailed in AS1428.1 figures 1.
- (ii) In ongoing design handrails provided on both sides of the ramp and stairs are to be designed to meet the requirements of AS1428.1 clause 6.1 and figure 1.

The North Eveleigh site is proposed to include an accessible link to the proposed public Plaza level via an additional potential ramp from the Wilson St Public Square area. Stairs only are included in the proposed bridge design to link the bridge level with the Plaza and it is our understanding that the accessible link is to be confirmed by others.

Note:

- (i) We recommend documentation include a requirement for a lift or ramp to link the 2 levels as a high priority or essential element of the ongoing design.
- (ii) In ongoing design tactile ground surface indicators (tgsi) designed to meet the requirements of AS1428.4 are to be provided in a band 600mm deep at the top and bottom of the stairs as detailed in AS1428.1 figures 17.
- (iii) In ongoing design handrails provided on both sides of the stairs are to be designed to meet the requirements of AS1428.1 clause 6.1 and 9.1.
- (iv) In ongoing design stairs are to include highlighting strips on the tread at the nosing in a band a minimum of 50mm and a maximum of 75mm wide to meet the requirements of AS1428.1 clause 9.1(c).

2.2 Accessible path of travel

The path of travel on the bridge platform is designed to meet the requirements of AS1428.1 clause 5.1 and AS1428.2 clause 6 to include a width to accommodate the passing of pedestrians including users of wheelchairs, moving in each direction; a vertical overhead clearance greater than 2m and a proposed slip resistant surface.

Viewing areas where rest seating is to be located are proposed on both sides of the bridge.

Note:

- (i) Seats are to include backrests and armrests designed to meet the requirements of AS1428.2 clause 27.2 and figure 32.

Consequently with the addition of the recommendations in ongoing design of items indicated as “Notes”, it is our opinion the provision of access for people with disabilities at this stage of the design meets the performance requirements of the Building Code of Australia part D3.



It is our opinion that the access provisions of the proposed design will potentially meet the intent of the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act's obligations of equitable and dignified access for people with a disability.

Yours faithfully,

Robyn Thompson
Access Consultant Accredited with ACAA

Qualifications: Diploma of Occupational Therapy, Cumberland College of Health Sciences (Sydney) 1976.

Affiliations: Member OT Australia (No: 200195)
Accredited member Association of Consultants in Access Australia (No: 150)
Affiliate member Australian Institute Building Surveyors (No: 4233)
OHS Construction Induction training Certificate CG100925535SEQ1

