



A Jensen Hughes Company

Ecove

SOP 2A+2B, Australia
Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park

**Access Review –
Final v3**

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2022

REPORT REVISIONS		
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1. Executive Summary

The Access Review Report is a key element in the design development of SOP 2A and 2B located at Australia Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW 2127, and an appropriate response to the AS1428 series, Building Code of Australia (BCA), DDA Access to Premises Standards (including DDA Access Code) and ultimately the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

Morris-Goding Accessibility Consulting has prepared the Access Report to provide advice and strategies to maximise reasonable provisions of access for people with disabilities.

The review will ensure that ingress and egress, paths of travel, circulation areas, and sanitary facilities comply with relevant statutory guidelines, and in addition, compliance with a higher level of accessibility and inclusiveness benchmarks set by the project.

2. Introduction

2.1. Background

Ecove has engaged Morris-Goding Accessibility Consulting, to provide a design review of SOP 2A and 2B, located at Australia Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW 2127. The development consists of retail, commercial, car parking and hotel apartments

The proposed development falls under a number of BCA classifications:

- Class 3 (Serviced Apartments)
- Class 5 (Commercial/Office)
- Class 6 (Retail)
- Class 7a (Carpark)
- Class 9b (Club)

The requirements of the investigation are to:

- Review supplied drawings of the proposed development;
- Provide a report that will analyse the provisions of disability design of the development, and;

Recommend solutions that will ensure the design complies with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), Building Code of Australia (BCA), relevant Australian Standards, and enhanced benchmark requirements set by the project.

2.2. Objectives

The report seeks to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and enhanced benchmark requirements set by the project. The report considers user groups, who include students, staff, and members of the public. The report attempts to deliver equality, independence and functionality to people with a disability inclusive of:

- People with a mobility impairment (ambulant and wheelchair);
- People with a sensory impairment (hearing and vision), and;
- People with a dexterity impairment;

The report seeks to provide compliance the Disability Discrimination Act 1992. In doing so, the report attempts to eliminate, as far as possible, discrimination against persons on the ground of disability.

2.3. Limitations

This report is limited to the accessibility provisions of the building in general. It does not provide comment on detailed design issues, such as: internals of accessible/ambulant toilet, fit-out, lift specification, slip resistant floor finishes, door schedules, hardware and controls,

glazing, luminance contrast, stair nosing, TGSIs, handrail design, signage etc. that will be included in construction documentation.

2.4. Accessibility of Design

The proposed design will utilise the Federal Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010, BCA/DDA Access Code, Universal Design principles, the AS1428 Series and other design guidelines, to develop appropriate design documentation and to provide reasonable access provisions for people with disabilities.

The project architect and an appropriately qualified accessibility consultant will examine key physical elements during design development stage, to identify physical barriers and incorporate solutions as a suitable response to disability statutory regulations and other project objectives.

The design will be developed to ensure the principles of the DDA are upheld. Under the DDA, it is unlawful to discriminate against people with disabilities in the provision of appropriate access, where the approach or access to and within a premise, makes it impossible or unreasonably difficult for people with disabilities to make use of a particular service or amenity.

The design will comply with the requirements of the DDA Access to Premises Standards and include requirements for accessible buildings, linkages and the seamless integration of access provisions compliant with AS1428.1. The developed design will consider all user groups, who include members of the public, visitors, students and staff members.

2.5. Statutory Requirements

The statutory and regulatory guidelines to be encompassed in the developed design to ensure effective, appropriate and safe use by all people including those with disabilities will be in accordance with:

- Federal Disability Discrimination Act (DDA);
- Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010;
- Building Code of Australia (BCA) Part D3, F2, E3;
- AS 1428.1:2009 – (General Requirement of Access);
- AS 1428.4.1:2009 – (Tactile Ground Surface Indicators);
- AS 2890.6:2009 – (Parking for People with Disabilities);
- AS 1735.12:1999 – (Lift Facilities for Persons with Disabilities);
- SOPA Access Guidelines Fifth Edition 2017;

Please note that there are also additional advisory standards (not currently referenced by BCA or DDA Premises Standards) as well as other relevant guidelines that will be

considered, as relevant to promote equity and dignity in line with over-arching DDA principles and aspirational objectives. These include:

- Universal Design Principles;
- Human Rights Commission (HEREOC);
- Advisory Note February 2013 on Streetscape, Public, Outdoor Areas, Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture;
- AS1428.2:1992 – (Enhanced and Additional Requirements);
- AS1428.4.1 – (Draft Way-Finding Standard);
- AS3745:2010 – Planning for Emergencies in Facilities (To Assist with Design Strategies for Provision for Escape for People with Disability that may Require Assistance);

3. General Access Planning Considerations

The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) is a legislative law that protects the rights of all people. The Act makes disability discrimination unlawful and promotes equal rights, equal opportunity and equal access for people with disabilities. The Australian Human Right Commission is the governing body who control and enforce DDA compliance.

Nevertheless, building elements that provide insufficient accessible provisions for people with disabilities remain subject to the DDA. The improvement of non-compliant building elements and areas to meet current access requirements will mitigate the risk of a DDA complaint be made against the building owner.

Since the 1st May 2011, the Commonwealth's Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010 (DDA Premises Standards) apply to all new building works and to affected parts of existing buildings.

The DDA Premises Standards' requirements (DDA Access Code) are mirrored in the access provisions of the BCA. New building work and affected parts must comply with the DDA Premises Standards and AS1428.1:2009 in the same manner as they would comply with the BCA by meeting deemed-to-satisfy provisions or by adopting an alternative solution that achieves the relevant performance requirements.

By utilizing AS1428 suite of Standards, the overall aim is to provide continuous accessible paths of travel to connect the proposed development to and through public domain areas and between associated accessible buildings in accordance with the DDA Access Code.

MGAC supports the use and consideration of universal design (UD) principles into the design to maximize access for all people. We will assist the design team to incorporate UD principles where possible within the project, while still meeting mandatory compliance requirements.

A UD approach has numerous benefits for the client as an education provider, for businesses within the building, for individual users and for society in general. An inclusive environment that can be accessed, understood and used by as many people as possible, is good business sense, is more sustainable and is socially progressive, in line with the aims of the DAP.

Universal Design Principles consider the needs of a broad range of people including older people, families with children and pushing prams, people from other cultures and language groups, visitors in transit and people with disability. By considering the diversity of users, the design will embed access into and within it, so that benefits can be maximized, without adding on specialized 'accessible' features that can be costly, visually unappealing and may perpetuate exclusion and potential stigma.

The seven key Universal Design Principles to consider in the on-going design include:

- Principle 1: Equitable Use
- Principle 2: Flexibility in Use

- Principle 3: Simple and Intuitive Use
- Principle 4: Perceptible Information
- Principle 5: Tolerance for Error
- Principle 6: Low Physical Effort
- Principle 7: Size and Space for Approach and Use

4. Ingress & Egress

4.1. External Linkages

The BCA and DDA Premises Standards contain requirements for site approaches for the use of persons with disabilities. These requirements can be summarised as follows:

- It will be necessary to provide an accessible path of travel from main pedestrian entry points at the site allotment boundary to all building entrances compliant with AS1428.1:2009.
- An accessible path of travel between buildings (or parts of buildings) that are connected by a pedestrian linkage, within the site allotment boundary, compliant with AS1428.1:2009 is also required.
- An accessible path of travel to building entrances (required to be accessible) from associated accessible car-parking bays, compliant with AS1428.1:2009 is required.

Assessment

Currently, accessible paths are provided from pedestrian point to the main entrance doors of the buildings and from the car parking bays, in accordance with AS1428.1, SOPA and the DDA Premises Standards.

4.2. Entrances

The BCA and DDA Premises Standards contain requirements for building entry for the use of persons with disabilities. These requirements can be summarised as follows:

- Access is required through at least 50% of entrances, including the principal pedestrian entrance/s to all buildings or parts of buildings (i.e., when they have a separate function and/or use e.g., external retail tenancy). Note it is preferred that all entrances are accessible.
- A non-accessible entry cannot be located more than 50m distance from an accessible entry (for buildings greater than 500m²).
- All accessible doors to have 850mm min. clear width opening and suitable door circulation area, compliant with AS1428.1:2009. Note: Manual doors require lightweight door forces to be operable by people with disabilities (20N max.). We recommend that main entrances include automated sliding doors to be used where possible. Revolving doors are not accessible, if maintained an alternate accessible door is required adjacent.
- An accessible path of travel e.g. ramp or lift needs to be provided adjacent (or in reasonable proximity) to any stair access. Note: providing choice of access route directly adjacent so that people can start and finish in the same location/travel similar route promotes inclusion and UD principles.

Assessment

Currently, there is an accessible path provided from and to the building entrances, in accordance with AS1428.1, SOPA and the DDA Premises Standards.

4.3. Emergency Egress

BCA 2016 Part D2.17 has requirements for all fire-isolated egress stairs from areas required to be accessible (not communication stairs) to include at least one continuous handrail designed to be compliant with AS1428.1 Clause 12. Provision of an off-set tread at the base of stair flights or an extended mid-landing that will allow a 300mm extension clear of egress route is considered appropriate for achieving a consistent height handrail (without vertical or raked sections). Such an off-set tread configuration has been shown at the majority of stairs and would appear to be possible elsewhere, subject to further detail design.

Where fire-isolated egress stairs will also be used for communication stair purposes between levels, they should be designed to meet AS1428.1:2009. Confirmation is required on the likely use of certain stairs for this purpose.

There is currently no mandatory requirement within BCA or DDA Premises Standards for provision of independent accessible egress for people with a disability in accordance AS1428.1 and this remains an important DDA issue. Consideration of an accessible egress strategy with emergency evacuation plan will be needed as a minimum starting point.

Consideration of waiting spaces within fire-stairs should be strongly considered for people with mobility impairment.

The current configuration of stairs suggests the spatial requirements would not be incorporated without layout amendments, but if provided with future design development these would generally require:

- 850mm min. clear width egress door and 510mm min. external door circulation area, compliant with AS1428.1:2009.
- Wheelchair space (800mm W x 1300mm L min. dimensions) within fire-isolated stair, outside of the required egress path, that can be accessed on a continuous path of travel.
- Alternative evacuation means e.g. emergency passenger lift/s could be provided instead of/or only in addition to 'waiting spaces' in line with ABCB Handbook and/or consideration of stair evacuation devices (with appropriate storage and staff training) within fire stairs.

Assessment

Currently, egress items referring and in accordance with SOPA are being detailed and reviewed. It appears that they can be achieved and further review and compliance at design detail stages are to be made to ensure compliance with AS1428.1 and SOPA. Egress refuges are to be provided within all regress entrance ways as per SOPA guidelines.

5. Paths of Travel

5.1. Circulation Areas

The BCA and DDA Premises Standards contain requirements for circulation areas for the use of persons with disabilities. These requirements can be summarised as follows:

- Turning spaces (at least 1540mm W x 2070mm L) are required within 2m of every corridor end and at 20m.max intervals along all access-ways. This is needed for wheelchairs to make a 180-degree turn, compliant with AS1428.1:2009.
- All common-use doors (i.e., not excluded under Part D3.4) to have 850mm min. clear width opening (each active door leaf) and suitable door circulation area, compliant with AS1428.1:2009.
- All common-use corridors and accessible paths of travel to be at least 1800mm min. in areas of that cater for high traffic, 1000mm elsewhere is required as per AS1428.1 and SOPA access guidelines. Note: Increased clear width paths of travel required for doorway circulation, turning areas etc.

Assessment

Currently, amendments are required to be made to the current set of drawings to achieve compliance as per AS1428.1 or to be supported under a MGAC Performance Solution. Areas that do not meet SOPA are required to be assessed by the town planner and assist council is a concession is provided for this project.

5.2. Passenger Lifts

The BCA and DDA Premises Standards contain requirements for passenger lifts and circulation areas for the use of persons with disabilities. These requirements can be summarised as follows:

- Passenger lifts to have min. internal size at floor of 1400mm width x 1600mm depth, compliant with BCA/DDA Access Code Part E3.6 and AS1735.12.
- All lift lobbies and main corridors on each level to have 1800mm min. clear width to allow two wheelchairs ability to space pass each other.

Currently, the minimum requirement of 1400mm x 1600mm internal lift size with 1800mm x 2000mm lift lobby circulation spaces have been provided in accordance with AS1428.1. and the DDA Premises Standards.

Assessment

MGAC has reviewed the drawings and documentation in relation to the aforementioned requirements. On the basis of the current level of detail all access requirements appear capable of achieving compliance. Further work will be required during design development stage to ensure appropriate outcomes are achieved. Amendments can be made at later design stages where 1400mm lift widths have not been provided.

5.3. Stairs & Ramps

The BCA and DDA Premises Standards contain requirements for stairs and ramps for the use of persons with disabilities. These requirements can be summarised as follows:

- Ramps are to have maximum 1:14 gradient with landings at no more than 9 metre intervals.
- Ramps are to have handrails on both sides with minimum 1 metre clearance in accordance with AS1428.1.
- Landings are to have 1200mm length with 1500mm length at 90 degree turns.
- Stairs are to have handrails on both sides in accordance with AS1428.1.
- Stairs and ramps are to be offset to ensure no encroachment of handrail extensions into from transverse path of travel at top and bottom of stair/ramp.

Assessment

Currently, stair and ramps achieve compliant with the above-mentioned notes, in accordance with AS1428.1 and the DDA Premises Standards and appear capable of achieved compliance with SOPA.

Currently, walkways are required to be amended to ensure compliance with AS1428.1, however sufficient space is provided for amendments to readily be made to achieve compliant at later design stages.

6. Accessible Sole Occupancy Unit

6.1. Accessible SOU Provision

The BCA and DDA Premises Standards contain requirements for accessible SOUs for the use of persons with disabilities. The following requirements are to be satisfied in the provision of adaptable units:

- A total of accessible units is required based on DDA Premises Standards. Provisions of total number is to be determined of total units and total accessible SOU's, to comply with DDA Premises Standards and SOPA Access Guidelines.
- The accessible units are to be designed in accordance with AS1428.1.
- The accessible units are required to be representative of the range of rooms available.

6.2. Accessible SOU Design

The BCA and DDA Premises Standards contain requirements for accessible SOUs for the use of persons with disabilities. These requirements can be summarised as follows:

- The entry door of the unit achieves 850mm clear width opening (920mm door leaf). Latch side clearance of 530mm needs to be achieved externally and internally of the door in accordance with AS1428.1.
- The bathroom needs to be of an adequate size to achieve an AS1428.1 compliant bathroom of shower, WC and basin with required circulation spaces. Normally 2750mm x 2300mm will satisfy the circulation area requirements.
- The bedroom needs to achieve 1 metre either side of queen size bed and 1550mm x 2070mm at the base of bed or similar configuration.
- All doors need to achieve 850mm clear opening width from the outset and easily achievable latch side clearances at post adaptation, compliant with AS1428.1:2009.

Assessment

A total number of units and accessible units is to be provided and detailed. Details of the accessible unit (typical unit types) are set in accordance with AS1428.1, AS4299, AS2890.6 and the requirements above. The town planner is to determine if SOPA Access Guidelines are to be achieved.

7. Facilities & Amenities

7.1. Sanitary Facilities

The BCA and DDA Premises Standards contain requirements for sanitary facilities suitable for the use of persons with disabilities. These requirements can be summarised as follows:

- Provide at least 1 unisex accessible toilet, adjacent to every bank of toilets (where provided) on each storey, compliant with AS1428.1 under BCA/DDA Access Code part F2.4. If more than 1 toilet bank provided on each level, accessible toilet is required at 50% min. of toilet banks at each level.
- If common-use change facilities provided (i.e. both toilets and showers) a separate combined accessible WC/shower adjacent to male and female change rooms is required, compliant with AS1428.1 under BCA/DDA Access Code Part F2.4.
- An even number of left hand (LH) and right hand (RH) transfer WC pans (accessible toilets) is required within the building. Alternating LH/RH layouts on each subsequent level is the most appropriate and inclusive approach.
- Accessible WC requires 2300mm x 1900mm around the pan with the basin to sit outside this area in accordance with AS1428.1.
- An ambulant cubicle is required within every standard toilet bank adjacent to an accessible toilet under DDA Access Code Part F2.4 compliant with AS1428.1:2009.

Assessment

The currently accessible toilets achieve the requirements above to allow sufficient space within accessible toilet, ambulant cubicles, and classification of toilets as per AS1428.1, SOPA and the DDA Premises Standards.

It is noted drop-down handrail within ambulant toilet are to be supported under a MGAC Performance Solution at the common serviced apartment pool amenities.

7.2. Common Areas

The BCA and DDA Premises Standards contain requirements for common use areas suitable for the use of persons with disabilities. These requirements can be summarised as follows:

- Access is required to a unique common use facility such as swimming pool, sauna, common laundry, entertainment rooms.
- For swimming pools, a means of access is required into the pool in accordance with DDA Premises Standards.
- Accessibility is required to common use courtyards within buildings.
- Mailboxes and garbage rooms within residential buildings require appropriate accessibility.

- Wheelchair access is required to any external and outdoor terrace areas including roof terraces compliant with AS1428.1.

The currently drawings achieve the requirements above to allow sufficient access and circulation spaces to the pool areas and common access areas including office spaces etc. as per AS1428.1, SOPA and the DDA Premises Standards. The provisions of a managed pool hoist will be supported under a MGAC Performance Based Solution.

7.3. Car Parking

The BCA and DDA Premises Standards contain requirements for parking which are applicable to this project. These requirements can be summarised as follows:

- Under SOPA guidelines a total of 2% of parking bays are to be accessible in design as per AS2890.6.
- Accessible car bays require 5.4m x 2.4m with 5.4m x 2.4m shared area.
- All accessible car bays to be located near relevant lifts and/or associated building entry points to minimise distance to relevant lift and ensure accessible path of travel between these areas.
- Ensure 2.5m min. height clearance, compliant with AS2890.6 fig. 2.7 over accessible car bays with 2.2m min. vertical clearance leading to the accessible and adaptable unit car bays (Note: consideration for 2.3m or 2.4m min. height preferred for higher vans/adapted vehicles is recommended as good practice).

Currently, car parking bays that are accessible with adjacent share areas have been provided, measuring 5.4m x 2.4m with an adjacent share areas per AS2890.6. However, the total number of parking bays for retail, commercial and serviced apartments are not yet clarified.

Total number of parking bays and confirmation of 2% accessible parking bays are to be provided, sufficient space is provided to allow this requirement to be amended and met at later design stages.

An accessible path from accessible car parking bays to entrances or lifts is to comply with AS1428.1, SOPA and the DDA Premises Standards.

A MGAC Performance Based Solution will be provided for the split-level car parking allocation.

8. Conclusion

MGAC has assessed the proposed scheme for SOP 2A and 2B located at Australia Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW 2127. The proposed drawings indicate that accessibility requirements, pertaining to external site linkages, building access, common area access, sanitary facilities and parking can be readily achieved.

It is advised that MGAC will work with the project team as the scheme progresses to ensure appropriate outcomes are achieved in building design and external domain design.