



Western Sydney University

WSU South Parramatta Campus
Indigenous Centre of Excellence

Accessibility Statement

3 May 2024



REPORT REVISIONS		
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Prepared by,

DocuSigned by:

0772758E2FF1493...

Jeremy Tagle

Associate

Morris Goding Access Consulting

Reviewed by,

DocuSigned by:

71101A050372454...

David Goding

Director

Morris Goding Access Consulting



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1. Executive Summary

The Access Statement is a key element in the design development of Indigenous Centre of Excellence located at Western Sydney University South Parramatta Campus, 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 Statement to assess the development's capability of complying with the relevant accessibility requirements.

This review indicates that accessibility requirements, pertaining to site access, common area access, circulation, sanitary facilities and access to amenities can be readily achieved.



2. Introduction

2.1 Background

This statement has been prepared on behalf of Western Sydney University in support of a State Significant Development for the proposed new Indigenous Centre of Excellence.

This statement analyses the final SSDA design as prepared by JCBA with regards to accessibility under the objectives of the DDA and the requirements of the DDA Premises Standards 2010 and provide a statement of accessibility commitments that the project will work towards. This report responds to the SSD-64916225 Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirement (SEARs) number 4 which was issued by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure on 21st November 2023.

2.2 Site Description and Location

The Western Sydney University South Parramatta Campus is located at 171 Victoria Road, Parramatta.

The site comprises one (1) singular allotment, which is legally described as Lot 100 in DP 816829. The project site is known as the P1 Car Park in the northern portion of the wider site campus. The project site is approximately 12,150m² in size and is broadly rectangular in shape. It currently comprises of a hardstand area that accommodates approximately 284 car parking spaces. There is an existing single storey Central Energy Plant to the west of the development area which serves the wider campus; it remains outside of the scope of this SSDA.

The site is strategically positioned to the northern boundary of the Western Sydney University (University) South Parramatta Campus, fronting Victoria Road (the A40). The wider campus comprises a significant landholding size of approximately 20ha containing a series of buildings of differing heights and massing forms which are used for educational purposes. The buildings contained within the wider campus site are dissected by a series of open, at grade car parks, internal roads, pathways, and landscaped areas. The Campus sits to the north of the Parramatta River.

The site is located approximately 3km east of the Parramatta CBD, which is an area undergoing a process of significant transformation. It is also located approximately 500m to the Parramatta Light Rail Corridor, with the construction of new Yallamundi Light Rail now completed and awaiting operation by TfNSW.

The site location is identified in **Figure 1**.



Figure 1 Western Sydney University Parramatta South Campus locational context

Source: Nearmap/Ethos Urban

2.3 Project Description

The Applicant seeks development consent for the construction of a new state-of-the-art Indigenous Centre of Excellence as a new tertiary education facility on campus. The Indigenous Centre of Excellence project is funded by the NSW Government's Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants Program in association with Western Sydney University. The new Indigenous Centre of Excellence will be an important asset for both the University and local community alike, providing a space for the commitment to advancing Indigenous education, leadership, and reconciliation. The Indigenous Centre of Excellence will stand as a symbol of recognition of Indigenous land and the University's relationship with Indigenous communities. The Indigenous Centre of Excellence will represent a celebration of tens of thousands of years of Indigenous knowledges and histories, a legacy that the University is honoured to nurture and promote through further education opportunities for students and communities.

Through the Indigenous Centre of Excellence, the University will aim to drive positive change, increase Indigenous participation in higher education, and contribute to the preservation and sharing of Indigenous cultures.

This State Significant Development Application (SSDA) specifically seeks detailed approval for the following works:

- Site preparation including demolition of the existing car park, tree removal and installation of inground utility infrastructure services.
- Construction of a four-storey Indigenous Centre of Excellence encompassing:



- Ground level facilities, including but not limited to; a dedicated arrival area, outdoor amphitheatre, cinema and lecture theatre, performance space, artist studios and exhibition space. Associated workspaces, meeting areas, lounge areas and other amenities are to be provided throughout the ground floor.
- First floor level upwards comprising dedicated educational facilities including library facilities, learning areas and teaching spaces.
- Second floor level comprising staff / student foyer, offices, meeting rooms and collaboration spaces.
- Third level comprising a multi-functional recreational sports court, with associated ancillary amenities, alongside an astronomy garden.
- Roof level plant and services.
- Construction of internal driveway with hardstand area to provide 13 car parking spaces.
- Landscaping works to provide outdoor educational and recreational spaces.

2.4 Objectives

This Accessibility Statement considers operational modes and user groups in relation to the Indigenous Centre of Excellence.

The Accessibility Statement attempts to deliver equality, independence and functionality to people with disabilities inclusive of:

1. People with sensory impairment
2. People with mobility impairments
3. People with dexterity impairments

The Accessibility Statement seeks to provide compliance with the DDA. In doing so, it attempts to eliminate, as far as possible, discrimination against persons on the ground of disability.



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.

By utilizing AS 1428 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.

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. Accessibility Statement

4.1 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, AS 1428 Series to develop appropriate design documentation, to provide reasonable access provisions for people with disabilities.

The project architects and Morris Goding Access Consulting being a suitably 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.

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 premises, 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 AS1428.1-2009. The developed design will consider all user groups, who include members of the public, visitors, students and staff members.

4.2 Entrances

There are appropriate accessible paths of travel from main pedestrian entry points at the site allotment boundary to all building entrances, accessible paths of travel between different sections of the centre that are connected by a pedestrian linkage and accessible paths of travel to building entrances from the associated accessible car-parking bays.

Access is provided through the main entrance and through alternative entry points. All accessible doors have appropriate clear width openings and suitable door circulation area.

4.3 Paths of Travel

Circulation has been provided to and within all areas required to be accessible. The paths of travel are appropriate clear width and provided turning, passing and manoeuvring spaces in all areas that require them.

The doors proposed to all common use areas are of a suitable size and with appropriate circulation to ensure access to and within all areas normally used by the occupants is suitable and equitable.

All passenger lifts have suitable internal dimensions and appropriate circulation at lift landings to ensure a vertical circulation path to all levels of the building. Stairs that provide access between floors show appropriate provision for handrail, tactile ground surface indicators and step nosing strips to ensure safe travel between floors.

At this stage of the design the outdoor areas, particularly the arterial pathways through the central landscaped area, show suitable provision for appropriate hardstand paths of travel.



4.4 Sanitary Facilities

There are sanitary facilities proposed on levels 1-4 of the building. All banks of sanitary facilities show suitable provision of accessible toilets as well as ambulant cubicles. The internal dimensions of all these facilities demonstrate the capability of having fully compliant fixtures and fittings that are suitable for use by people with disabilities.

4.5 Car Parking

An accessible car parking space has been provided in the car park. The provision of this space and its design meet the relevant requirements in terms of accessible car parking for a building of this nature.

4.6 Miscellaneous Amenities

Other considerations in this statement include the provision of amenities in specific room types within the development. This includes provision of hearing augmentation in meeting rooms, the theatre and the basketball court (and other areas) if inbuilt amplification is provided. It also includes provision of wheelchair seating spaces in the theatre. The development is capable of showing the above provisions and these will be incorporated into future detailed design.

4.7 Standards and Regulations

The statutory and regulatory guidelines that will be encompassed in the 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) 2022 Part D4, F4, 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);

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 (HREOC)
- 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)



5. Conclusion

The SSDA Drawings as prepared by JCBA indicate that accessibility requirements can be readily achieved in line with Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements. The proposed drawings show that external site linkages, building access, common area access, sanitary facilities and parking can be readily achieved in accordance with the Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010 and relevant accessibility standards. The level of compliance shown is appropriate for the current level of design and shows suitable provision for full compliance to be achieved throughout further design development.