

**DARLING HARBOUR LIVE**

**ACCESS REPORT FOR SSDA1**

**SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION, EXHIBITION &  
ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCT**

**Morris-Goding Accessibility Consulting**

**FINAL**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	4
2.	INTRODUCTION .....	6
2.1.	General .....	6
2.2.	Investigation.....	7
2.3.	Objectives .....	7
2.4.	Statutory Requirements.....	7
2.5.	External Domain .....	7
3.	PROJECT PRECINCT .....	8
3.1.	SICEEP Site - PPP Project Precinct.....	8
3.2.	The Boulevard.....	9
3.3.	Tumbalong Place and Exhibition Light Rail Station.....	9
3.4.	Exhibition Light Rail Station .....	10
3.5.	Theatre Centre Drop-off Area .....	10
3.6.	Harbourside Place and Convention Light Rail Station.....	10
3.7.	Convention Centre/Future Hotel Drop-off Area .....	11
3.8.	Harris Street Linkage .....	11
3.9.	Building Linkages .....	11
3.10.	Chinese Garden Plaza .....	12
3.11.	Tumbalong Green .....	12
3.12.	Street Furniture .....	12
4.	THEATRE .....	13
4.1.	Ingress and Egress.....	13
4.3.	Facilities.....	16
4.4.	Sanitary Facilities.....	18
4.5.	Car Parking .....	19
4.6.	Miscellaneous .....	20
5.	ICC EXHIBITION CENTRE .....	21
5.1.	Ingress and Egress.....	21
5.2.	Path of Travel.....	23
5.3.	Sanitary Facilities.....	25
5.4.	Car Parking .....	26
5.5.	Miscellaneous .....	27
6.	INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE.....	28
6.1.	Ingress and Egress.....	28
6.2.	Path of Travel.....	29
6.3.	Facilities.....	30
6.4.	Sanitary Facilities.....	32
6.5.	Miscellaneous .....	34

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This access review report supports a State Significant Development Application (SSDA1 5752-2012) submitted to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure pursuant to Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

The Application seeks approval for construction of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) component of the Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Precinct (SICEEP) Project at Darling Harbour.

The SICEEP Project will deliver Australia's global city with world class convention, exhibition and entertainment facilities that can compete effectively in the national and international events markets. The SICEEP Project importantly forms a critical element of the NSW Government's aspiration to "make NSW number one again". The SICEEP Project also involves the creation of a new neighbourhood and a community hub.

This report is an appropriate response to the AS1428 series, Building Code of Australia, DDA (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010 and ultimately the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

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 proposed development has been reviewed to ensure that ingress and egress, paths of travel, circulation areas, sanitary facilities and car parking comply with relevant statutory guidelines.

In general, the development provides continuous accessible paths of travel for people with disabilities. In line with the report's recommendations, the proposed development has demonstrated an appropriate degree of accessibility. The Development Application drawings indicate that compliance with statutory requirements and common area access facilities can be readily achieved.

The recommendations in this report are associated with detailed design and are achievable. These recommendations should be addressed prior to construction certificate.

The main recommendations that have arisen from the access review include:

### Project Precinct

- A full access audit review is required at design development stage, to assess the existing conditions of the station and to ensure compliance with DDA Access Code 2010 and the DSAPT 2002.
- Ensure a safe and continuous accessible path of travel is provided from the light rail station to Tumbalong Place. The path of travel shall not be obstructed by parked vehicles.
- Ensure a safe and continuous accessible path of travel is provided from the light rail station to Harbourside Place. The path of travel shall not be obstructed by parked vehicles.

### Theatre

- Detailed confirmation required from the client on the use of the store room underneath the tiered seating of the theatre.
- Ensure the wheelchair seating spaces in the theatre are provided, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.
- Provide an accessible unisex toilet facility in each bank of toilets (level 1: Staff, VIP, level 2: Chorus dressing room, level 2M: venue management, level 3: public, level 4: corporate, level 5 corporate and public).
- Ensure 2% of the car parking bays are allocated for people with a disability, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

### ICC Exhibition Centre

- Detailed confirmation required from the client on the use of the store room area on level 1M.
- Ensure accessible toilet facilities are provided in the bank of staff and public toilets, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.
- Ensure 2% of the car parking bays are allocated for people with a disability, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

### International Convention Centre

- Provide an unobstructed wheelchair accessible path of travel from Darling Harbour or Harbourside Place and The Boulevard to entry doorways at the top of the entry stair, to comply with DDA Access Code 2010 Clause D3.2.
- Ensure stairs are set back from the transverse path of travel, to allow for suitable handrail extensions at the top and bottom of the stair.
- Ensure the wheelchair seating spaces in the Pymont and Darling Harbour Theatre are provided in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.
- Upgrade the existing staff accessible toilet on level 1 and provide an accessible unisex toilet facility in the public toilet facilities on level 1 and the Darling Harbour Theatre public toilets on level 2.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1. General

Darling Harbour Live has engaged Morris-Goding Accessibility Consulting to provide an accessibility design review of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) component of the new Sydney International Convention Exhibition and Entertainment Precinct (SICEEP) at Darling Harbour.

This access review report supports a State Significant Development Application (SSDA1 5752-2012) submitted to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure pursuant to Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). It has been prepared to address the Director-General's Requirements (DGRs) that have been issued for the project.

The proposed development involves construction of the PPP component of the SICEEP Project, comprising new, integrated and world-class convention, exhibition and entertainment facilities with associated retail and public domain upgrades.

The application more specifically seeks approval for the following development:

- Demolition of existing improvements on the site, including existing Sydney Convention Centre (part) and Sydney Exhibition Centre;
- Associated tree removal and replanting;
- Construction of a new, integrated and world-class Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Centre;
- Public domain improvements, including:
  - reinvigorating and expanding Tumbalong Park;
  - provision (part) of a new active north-south pedestrian connection (known as the Boulevard);
  - provision of new east-west connections, including Harbourside Place and Tumbalong Place;
  - Provision of a pedestrian bridge link from Quarry Street;
  - Retention of the tidal cascade water feature;
  - Reconfiguration and upgrade of Darling Drive (part);
  - Provision of a new square adjoining the Chinese Garden;
  - Provision of a new open space 'event deck' (connected with the Exhibition Centre);
  - Integrated art, play zones, water play and recreation areas;
  - Provision of retail kiosks;
  - Provision of ground level parking within the Exhibition and Entertainment Centre facilities;
- Ground and elevated loading docks (accessed off Darling Drive) for Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Centre facilities;
- Two vehicle drop off points along Darling Drive;

- Provision of signage; and
- Extension and augmentation of physical infrastructure / utilities as required.

## **2.2. Investigation**

The requirements of the investigation are to:

- Review supplied drawings (transmittal AX003688\_C dated 15/02/2013) of 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) and AS 1428 series.

## **2.3. Objectives**

The report considers user groups such as staff and visitors. The Report attempts to deliver equality, independence and functionality to people with disabilities inclusive of:

- People with sensory impairment (hearing and vision);
- People with mobility impairments (ambulant and wheelchair); and
- People with dexterity impairments.

The Report seeks to provide compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992. In doing so, the Report seeks to eliminate, as far as possible, discrimination against persons on the ground of disability and ensure, as far as practicable, that persons with disabilities have the same rights of access to premises as the rest of the community.

## **2.4. Statutory Requirements**

The following standards are to be used to implement the Report:

- BCA – Building Code of Australia 2013
- AS 1428.1-2009 - (80% of people with disabilities accommodated)
- AS 1428.2-1992 - (90% of people with disabilities accommodated)
- DDA Access Code 2010 – DDA (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010
- DDA – Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- DSAPT 2002 – Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002

## **2.5. External Domain**

The BCA and DDA Access Code 2010 set the minimum access requirements for people with disabilities in relation to access to buildings. External domain areas (landscape areas), are not covered under the mandatory BCA and DDA Access Code 2010. However, remain subject to the DDA, a complaint based legislation.

The DDA is the framework national legislation in relation to disability discrimination and is a complaints based legislation. The DDA provides, amongst other things, that it is unlawful to discriminate against people with a disability with respect to access to premises. The primary enforcement mechanism for the DDA is via complaints by aggrieved persons to the Australian Human Right and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC).

### 3. PROJECT PRECINCT

#### 3.1. SICEEP Site - PPP Project Precinct

The SICEEP Site is located within the Darling Harbour precinct. Darling Harbour is a 60 hectare waterfront precinct on the south-western edge of the Sydney Central Business District that provides a mix of functions including recreational, tourist, entertainment and business.

With an area of approximately 20 hectares, the SICEEP Site is generally bound by the Light Rail Line to the west, Harbourside shopping centre and Cockle Bay to the north, Darling Quarter, the Chinese Garden and Harbour Street to the east, and Hay Street to the south.

The SICEEP Site has been divided into three distinct redevelopment areas (from north to south) – Bayside, Darling Central and The Haymarket. The PPP Application Site area is located within Bayside and Darling Central as shown in the Figure below.





### **3.2. The Boulevard**

The Boulevard is a wide pedestrian pathway that runs from the Darling Harbour precinct along the Convention and Exhibition Centres and the Theatre to The Haymarket precinct to the south of the SICEEP site.

The Boulevard provides an essential linkage for pedestrians to access and to transit between the new Theatre, the Exhibition and Convention Centres, Tumbalong Place, Harbourside Place and to and from the surrounding areas such as Darling Harbour, Chinese Garden Plaza, Tumbalong Green, Darling Quarter and The Haymarket.

In general, The Boulevard has gradients and circulation areas that allow wheelchair users to pass one another and to make a 180° turn, in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

### **3.3. Tumbalong Place and Exhibition Light Rail Station**

Tumbalong Place is a large square situated between the Theatre and the Exhibition Centre. The square is to provide an important pedestrian linkage between The Boulevard and the Exhibition Light Rail station and the drop-off area at the rear of the Theatre.

The use of a graded walkway adjacent the wide stair from The Boulevard to Tumbalong Place provides a suitable accessible path of travel for people with disabilities, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The graded walkway is positioned near the bottom of the Exhibition Centre ceremonial entry stair. The walkway has gradients of no steeper than 1:20, which is suitable for wheelchair users as long as 1200mm deep landing areas are provided at maximum 15 metre intervals, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

The graded walkway has a 2000mm clear width path of travel, which is normally a sufficient width for wheelchair users to access Tumbalong Place and to pass wheelchair users travelling in the opposite direction in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010. Review is required, to ensure the walkway width is sufficient for wheelchair users to enter Tumbalong Place, during times (e.g. in times of events) the walkway is used by a high volume of people leaving Tumbalong Place.

Tumbalong Place has level wheelchair circulation areas and provides appropriate access to the accessible entry points of the Theatre and the Exhibition Centre, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010. The area is also to serve as a 'red carpet' arrival point for the Theatre and to access the retail area on the ground floor of the Theatre.

Generally, Tumbalong Place seems to have suitable gradients and circulation areas for wheelchair users to pass one another and to make a 180° turn in an equitable and dignified manner, which is compliant with DDA Access Code 2010.

The rear of Tumbalong Place is proposed to be used as shared pedestrian/vehicle area, in which vehicles turn onto the square to access the drop-off area at the rear of the Theatre. Generally, the provision of an accessible path of travel to and from the light rail station is achievable, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010. Review is required at design development stage, to ensure the pedestrian paths of travel to and from the light rail station are accessible and not obstructed by parked vehicles in line for the drop-off area.

*Recommendations:*

- (i) Ensure a safe and continuous accessible path of travel is provided from the light rail station to Tumbalong Place, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009. The path of travel shall not be obstructed by parked vehicles.
- (ii) Ensure the graded walkway between The Boulevard and Tumbalong Place has gradients of no steeper than 1:20 with landing areas at suitable intervals, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.
- (iii) The stair between The Boulevard and Tumbalong Place shall have handrails and tactile ground surface indicators (TGSIs) to assist people with vision and mobility impairment, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

The stair will need to be recessed from The Boulevard a minimum 900mm, to ensure the handrail extensions and the use of TGSIs are not protruding into the transverse path of travel of The Boulevard.

**3.4. Exhibition Light Rail Station**

In general, it is achievable to provide a continuous accessible path of travel from Pymont Street to the existing Exhibition light rail station and the Darling Drive zebra crossing to Tumbalong Place, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

As a public transport facility, the provision of accessibility to and within the station is mandatory under the DDA Access Code 2010 and the DSAPT 2002.

Review is required at design development stage, to ensure the paths of travel to and from Pymont Street to Tumbalong Place and the light rail station provide suitable provisions for people with a disability.

*Recommendation:*

- (i) A full access audit review is required at design development stage, to assess the existing conditions of the station and to ensure compliance with DDA Access Code 2010 and the DSAPT 2002.

**3.5. Theatre Centre Drop-off Area**

There are in total 15 drop-off bays provided at the rear of the Theatre, including one coach bus drop-off bay.

The drop-off bays are provided along a hardstand pedestrian platform, which provide a continuous accessible path of travel to and from Tumbalong Place, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Consider providing a smooth transition (e.g. level or use of kerb ramp) between the drop-off bays and the pedestrian platforms, to allow for equitable access for wheelchair users. (Advisory - best practice)

**3.6. Harbourside Place and Convention Light Rail Station**

The Harbourside Place is a public square located to the north of the Convention Centre. Harbourside Place provides an essential pedestrian linkage from Darling Harbour to the Convention Light Rail station and the drop-off area at the rear of the future SICEEP Hotel development.

The Harbourside Place provides suitable wheelchair accessible paths of travel from Darling Harbour to the northern entrance of the Convention Centre, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010. The square also provides an important accessible pedestrian linkage between the Convention Centre and the future Hotel development for people with mobility impairment, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The rear of the Harbourside Place is proposed to be a shared pedestrian/vehicle area, in which vehicle turn onto the square to access the drop-off area to the north of the Convention Centre and to the side of the future hotel development. In general, the provision of an accessible path of travel to and from the light rail station is achievable, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010. Review is required at design development stage, to ensure the pedestrian paths of travel to and from the light rail station are accessible and not obstructed by parked vehicles in line for the drop-off area.

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Ensure a safe and continuous accessible path of travel is provided from the light rail station to Harbourside Place, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009. The path of travel shall not be obstructed by parked vehicles.

### **3.7. Convention Centre/Future Hotel Drop-off Area**

There are drop-off bays provided to the north of the Convention Centre, to west of the future Hotel development and along Darling Drive. Two drop-off bays are reserved for coach buses.

The drop-off bays are provided along a hardstand pedestrian platform, which provide a continuous accessible path of travel to and from Harbourside Place, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Consider providing a smooth transition (e.g. level or use of kerb ramp) between the drop-off bays and the pedestrian platforms, to allow for equal access for wheelchair users. (Advisory - best practice)

### **3.8. Harris Street Linkage**

The existing bridge walkway to Harris Street Pyrmont (which runs underneath the Western Distributor) is proposed to be extended, to ensure the stair and passenger lift can be relocated and provide a suitable accessible linkage from the bridge to The Boulevard, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The passenger lift and stair are proposed to join The Boulevard directly adjacent to the secondary entry point of the Exhibition Centre. The passenger lift provides also a continuous accessible path of travel to the entry level (level 2 RL12.00) of the Exhibition Centre.

The proposed passenger lift has internal dimension that satisfies the minimum requirements of the DDA Access Code 2010.

### **3.9. Building Linkages**

The Theatre, Exhibition and Convention Centre are each connected with a pedestrian linkage on level 2 of the buildings.

The pedestrian linkage between each of the buildings has suitable gradients and width circulation areas for wheelchair users to pass one another and to make a 180° turn in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

### **3.10. Chinese Garden Plaza**

The Chinese Garden Plaza is a large square in front of the Chinese Garden and the Theatre. The plaza appears to have sufficient wheelchair circulation areas and level transitions between The Boulevard and other surroundings.

### **3.11. Tumbalong Green**

Tumbalong Green is proposed to be incorporated in the redevelopment of SICEEP. There is a pathway of a minimum 1800mm width that provides a wheelchair accessible linkage between the Chinese Garden Plaza, The Boulevard and the existing Darling Quarter area.

Tumbalong Green is proposed to include a new stage area that can be accessed from the accessible path along the green.

Further detail is required to confirm circulation areas, street furniture and path linkages between the various areas are suitable for people with disabilities.

### **3.12. Street Furniture**

*Recommendations:*

- (i) Ensure street furniture, including seats, tables, drinking fountains and rubbish bins or the like, are placed so that they do not obstruct the accessible path of travel, in accordance with AS1428.2-1992. (Advisory - best practice)
- (ii) Ensure that street furniture is designed so that it is accessible by both pedestrian and wheelchair users, in accordance with AS1428.2-1992. (Advisory - best practice)

## **4. THEATRE**

### **4.1. Ingress and Egress**

#### **4.1.1. Location and Site Access**

The Theatre is located to the south of the proposed new ICC Exhibition Centre and Tumbalong Place, opposite the Chinese Garden Plaza.

The main entry point of the development is located on the north/east corner of the building, near the top of the public stairs between The Boulevard and the Tumbalong Place.

The new pedestrian graded walkway near the ceremonial entry point of the Exhibition Centre will provide a wheelchair accessible path of travel from The Boulevard to the main entry point of the Theatre located along Tumbalong Place, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

#### **4.1.2. Main Entrance**

The main entry point of the development consists of a large stairway, escalators and two passenger lifts. The large entry stairway and escalators provide access from Tumbalong Place to the main building entrance, on level 2 (RL12.0) of the development, for abled-bodied persons. The two passenger lifts are positioned in the VIP entry foyer. The passenger lifts are located within 50 metres to the west of the non-accessible entry point (stair and escalators) and provide a continuous accessible path of travel to level 2, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

In general, there is a continuous accessible path of travel from the bottom of the main entry stair (the non-accessible entry), to the two passenger lifts in the VIP entry foyer, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The level 2 entry concourse area provide sufficient circulation areas for wheelchair users to pass one another and to enter/exit the two passenger lifts in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

#### *Recommendations:*

- (i) Ensure the main entry stair has handrails with extensions, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.
- (ii) Provide a system of directional signage to identify the accessible path of travel, from the main entry stair to the two entry passenger lifts, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

#### **4.1.3. VIP Entrance**

The two main entry passenger lifts are also to provide a continuous accessible path of travel from the VIP entry foyer to level 1 (RL6.00), in addition to the entry stair opposite the two passenger lifts.

In general, there is a continuous accessible path of travel from the passenger lifts to the facilities (star dressing rooms, VIP Conference Room) on level 1, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

The entry stair to level 1 is appropriately recessed from the level 1 corridor, to allow for sufficient handrail extensions at the top of the stair.

#### 4.1.4. Casual Staff Entrance

There is a separate entrance for the casual staff, on the south side of the building. There is a continuous accessible path of travel from The Boulevard to this staff entrance of the development, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

In general, there is a continuous accessible path of travel provided from the staff entrance, to the ground floor staff facilities (e.g. casual staff reception/check in counter) and the two passenger lifts that provide access to the level 1 facilities (e.g. VIP/conference room, dressing rooms and stage area) and the concourse areas on the upper floors, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

Staff could also use a stairway to access level 1 from the casual staff entry area. The passenger lifts are located within reasonable distance from the stair, to provide an equitable continuous accessible path of travel from the staff entrance to level 1 of the building, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

##### *Recommendation:*

- (i) Ensure the casual staff stair is suitably recessed from the transverse path of travel, to allow for suitable handrail extensions at the top and bottom of the stair, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

#### 4.1.5. Corporate Entrance

There is a separate entrance provided adjacent the retail area located along Tumbalong Place on the north side of the building. This entrance is to provide direct access, via the passenger lift, to the staff and office rooms on level 1, 2 and 2M, and the corporate function rooms and facilities on level 4 and 5, in the north/west corner of the building.

The use of a passenger lift will ensure wheelchair users have suitable access to each of these staff, office and corporate facilities located on the upper floors, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

#### 4.1.6. Emergency Egress

There are several fire egress stairs provided in the building. The main fire egress stairs on the south/east corner and on the north side of the building are of a significant size and include refuge areas that are suitable for wheelchair users, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

From the information provided, the fire isolated egress stair in the south/east corner of the building is also used for general egress.

##### *Recommendations:*

- (i) Consider reconfiguring the main fire-isolated egress stair in the south/east corner of the building, to allow for suitable handrail extensions on both sides of the stair, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.
- (ii) Emergency services should include audible and visual warning signals to assist people with sensory disabilities, in accordance with AS1428.2-1992. (Advisory - best practice)

## 4.2. Path of Travel

### 4.2.1. Passenger Lifts

There are in total eight passenger lifts provided in the building. Four of these seven passenger lifts are positioned near the eastern façade and provide a continuous accessible path of travel from the ground floor (two lifts provides access from Tumbalong Place and two from the causal staff area) to level 1 and each of the upper concourse levels of the building, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

There are two lifts provided near the north/west corner of the building. The passenger lifts provide a continuous accessible path of travel from the ground floor car park and from the corporate/office entrance to the staff, office and corporate facilities located on the upper floors, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

There is also a passenger lift provided to the south of the stage of the theatre, which provides suitable wheelchair access from the ground floor car park to the level 1 and 2 dressing room areas, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The eight passenger lift is provided to the north of the stage of the theatre and is to provide a wheelchair accessible linkage from level 1 to the stage area, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

In general, each of the passenger lifts has internal dimensions that satisfy the minimum requirements of the DDA Access Code 2010 and BCA.

There are sufficient circulation areas provided in the lift lobbies in front of the passenger lifts to allow wheelchair users the ability to enter and exit the passenger lift in an equitable and dignified manner, compliant with AS1428.1-2009.

In particular, the passenger lifts servicing the concourse levels of the building have significant circulation areas in the lift lobbies, to allow two wheelchair users to pass one another, in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

### 4.2.2. Theatre Store Room

There is a large store room provided underneath the tiered seating of the theatre. Currently, this room can only be accessed via two stairways from level 2 and there is no lift access provided to this area, which could be non-compliant with DDA Access Code 2010.

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Detailed confirmation required from the client, outlining which duties and activities are required to access the store room area, to determine if this area can be exempted from access for people with a disability under BCA D3.4.

### 4.2.3. Escalators

There are escalators provided in addition to the passenger lifts, which connect each of the concourse levels of the building. The passenger lifts are located within the line of sight of the escalators and provide an appropriate accessible path of travel to each of the floors for wheelchair users and people with a mobility aid, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

#### 4.2.4. Concourse and FOH Circulation

The concourse areas on level 2 and 3, and the FOH circulation/foyer on level 4 and 5 have sufficient circulation areas for wheelchair users to pass one another and to make a 180° turn in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The concourse area on level 2 provides sufficient circulation areas for wheelchair users to access the prayer rooms to south of the building, to access the bridge link to the Exhibition Centre and to access the staff facilities in the north/west corner of the building, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

The corridors to the prayer rooms and the north/west staff facilities have each a minimum 1800mm width, allowing two wheelchair users to pass one another, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

#### 4.2.5. Linkages

The bridge link between the Theatre and the Exhibition Centre provides a wheelchair accessible path of travel between the two buildings, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The bridge link has a sufficient width to allow two wheelchair users to pass one another or for a wheelchair user to make a 180° turn in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

#### 4.2.6. Doors

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Ensure the doorways have a minimum 850mm clear opening width and latch side clearances, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

### 4.3. **Facilities**

#### 4.3.1. Retail Areas

There are retail areas provided on the ground floor of the Centre. Two of the retail areas are facing the China Garden Plaza to the east of the building. Review is required, to ensure an equitable accessible path of travel is provided to the Retail 1 (RL+2.50) and Retail 2 (RL+4.50), in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

There is also a retail area provided along Tumbalong Place on the north side of the building. There is a continuous accessible path of travel from Tumbalong Place to the retail space along Tumbalong Place, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Provide an equitable accessible path of travel to and within Retail 1 and 2, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010 and AS1428.1-2009.

#### 4.3.2. Ticket Box Office

The ticket box office is located along Tumbalong Place, adjacent to the VIP entry point. The ticket box office counters can be entered from Tumbalong Place, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.



#### 4.3.3. Theatre

There is a large theatre with stage area provided in the centre of the building. From the information provided, the theatre holds a total of 8022 seats, extending from level 1 to level 5 of the development.

From the information provided, wheelchair seating spaces are proposed to be provided on the upper and lower tier of the theatre, to allow wheelchair seating in locations that are representative of the range of seating in the theatre, which is compliant with DDA Access Code 2010. In total 94 wheelchair seating spaces are proposed to be provided adjacent to carer seats, which satisfy the number of wheelchair seating spaces required in accordance with the BCA.

The passenger lifts will ensure a wheelchair accessible path of travel is provided to the theatre entry points near the wheelchair seating spaces, in accordance with the DDA Access Code 2010.

In general, there is a wheelchair accessible path of travel provided from the level 1 star facilities (e.g. dressing rooms, green room, lounge) to the stage area, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The passenger lift to the north of the stage will ensure wheelchair users could access the stage area from the level 1 corridor which is linked to the bottom of the lower tier seating area of the theatre, which is compliant with DDA Access Code 2010.

##### *Recommendations:*

- (i) Review is required, to ensure equitable wheelchair access is provided from the chorus dressing rooms on level 2 to the stage area of the theatre, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.
- (ii) Provide 16 wheelchair seating spaces plus 1 additional space for each additional 100 seats or part thereof in excess of 800 seats, in the theatre, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010 Table D3.9.
- (iii) The location of the wheelchair seating spaces is to be representative of the range of seating provided, compliant with DDA Access Code 2010 Table D3.9. Ensure wheelchair seating spaces are also provided at the front of the theatre.
- (iv) Ensure the wheelchair seating spaces are grouped in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010 Table D3.9.

#### 4.3.4. Corporate Function Rooms

The corporate function rooms are provided in the north/west corner, on level 4 and 5 of the building. The passenger lifts near the west façade of the building provide a wheelchair accessible path of travel from the ground floor car park and corporate entry to level 4 and 5.

The lifts also provide an accessible linkage between level 4 and 5, in alternative to the stair linkage between the two floors, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The corridors to the corporate function rooms have a sufficient width to allow wheelchair users to make 360° turn and to enter each of the rooms in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

In general, the stair is not obstructed by the transverse path of travel for people with a disability, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

#### **4.4. Sanitary Facilities**

##### **4.4.1. Accessible Toilet Facilities**

There are male and female toilet facilities provided on the ground floor. Review is required, to ensure accessible toilet facilities are provided in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

There are toilet facilities provided for the staff, VIPs and near the star dressing room and green room on level 1. There is an accessible toilet facility provided adjacent to the male and female toilets in the green room, which is compliant with DDA Access Code 2010. Review is required at design development stage, to ensure accessible toilet facilities are provided for staff and VIPs, which is believed to be achievable, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

There are three banks of toilets provided on level 2, one for the public, one associated to the chorus dressing room and one for staff. There is an accessible toilet facility provided for the adjacent staff and public male and female amenities, which is compliant with DDA Access Code 2010. Review is required, to ensure an accessible toilet facility is provided adjacent to the Chorus dressing room male and female toilets, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

There are guest and staff toilets provided adjacent to the venue management offices, on level 2M. There are no accessible toilet facilities provided on this floor, which is non-compliant with DDA Access Code 2010.

There are toilet facilities provided along the level 3 concourse area. Review is required at design development stage, to ensure accessible toilet facilities are provided, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

There is also a bank of toilets provided on the corporate function levels 4 and 5. Review is required, to ensure accessible toilets facilities are provided in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

Finally, there is a bank of public toilet facilities, including just male and female toilets, provided along the level 5 circulation foyer. Review is required, to ensure accessible toilet facilities are provided in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

##### *Recommendations:*

- (i) Provide an accessible unisex toilet facility in each bank of toilets (Staff, VIP and Star) on level 1, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.
- (ii) Additionally, provide an accessible unisex toilet facility in the bank of toilets on ground floor, near the Chorus Dressing room on level 2, in the venue management bank of toilets on level 2M, in the corporate bank of toilets on level 4 and 5 and public bank of toilets on level 3 and 5, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.
- (iii) The accessible toilet facilities need to have a minimum 1900mm x 2300mm unobstructed circulation area around the toilet pan. The minimum 440mm in depth washbasin may encroach a maximum 100mm into these circulation areas, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009 and AS1428.2-1992.

#### 4.4.2. Ambulant Cubicle Facilities

There are ambulant cubicles provided in some of the male and female toilet facilities. However, some of the toilet facilities are still under review.

In general, it is achievable to provide an ambulant cubicle facility in the male and female toilets, in accordance with the DDA Access Code 2010 and AS1428.1-2009.

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Provide an ambulant cubicle facility in the male and in the female toilet facilities located in the bank of toilets with the accessible toilet facility, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

#### 4.4.3. Parent Room

There is a parent room facility provided on level 2 of the building. In general, there is an accessible path of travel provided from the concourse area to the parent room, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Consider providing a baby change table in the parent room or in the accessible toilet facility on level 2, which has suitable clearances for wheelchair users, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009. (Advisory - best practice)

### 4.5. **Car Parking**

#### 4.5.1. Accessible Car Parking Bays

There are in total 110 car parking bays proposed to be provided on the ground floor of the development. In general, it is achievable to ensure a minimum of 2% of the car parking bays are reserved for people with a disability, in accordance with the DDA Access Code 2010.

Two passenger lifts provide a continuous accessible path of travel from the car park into the building. One of the passenger lifts is identified as a stage lift and provides direct access to the dressing room areas on level 1. The second lift provides direct linkage to the staff and corporate facilities in the north/west corner of the building.

There appears to be no access for patrons to Tumbalong Place from the car park.

*Recommendations:*

- (i) Ensure 2% of the car parking bays are allocated for people with a disability, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.
- (ii) Ensure the accessible car parking bays are located in proximity of the passenger lift, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.
- (iii) The accessible car parking bays shall be 2.4m wide x 5.4m long and have an equivalent reserved shared zone adjacent, in accordance with AS2890.6-2009.
- (iv) Ensure the accessible car parking bays have a minimum 2.5m vertical clearance, compliant with AS2890.6-2009.
- (v) Provide a minimum 2.2m clearance from the car park entrance to the accessible car parking bay, in accordance with AS2890.6-2009.

## **4.6. Miscellaneous**

### **4.6.1. Hearing Augmentations**

#### *Recommendations:*

- (i) Where an inbuilt amplification system is to be installed within the building (other than one used only for emergency warning), a hearing augmentation system to assist people who are deaf or hearing impaired must be installed in line with DDA Access Code 2010 and BCA Part D3.7.
- (ii) The hearing augmentation system (for induction loops) must be provided to at least 80% of the floor area, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010 and BCA Part D3.7.

### **4.6.2. Signage**

#### *Recommendation:*

- (i) Provide suitable signage to identify accessible and sanitary facilities, compliant with the DDA Access Code 2010 and BCA part D3.6.

## 5. ICC EXHIBITION CENTRE

### 5.1. Ingress and Egress

#### 5.1.1. Location and Site Access

The proposed new ICC Exhibition Centre is located between the Theatre and the International Convention Centre.

The main entry points of the Exhibition Centre can be found on the south/west and north/west corner of the development. The south/west entry point is classified as the ceremonial entrance of the development.

The south/west entry point is located along Tumbalong Place, near the top of the entry walkway from The Boulevard. The second entry point is located directly underneath the Western Distributor, along The Boulevard.

There is also a stair and series of ramps located within the landscape area along the east façade of the building, which provide a linkage between The Boulevard and the level 2 entry area of the building. Generally, the stair and ramps are not classified as entry points of the building and more associated to the landscape area along the building. As a result, there is no need to provide additional lift access adjacent to the landscape stair.

Finally, there is an alternative entry point provided at the rear of the building, to allow patrons to access the level 4 event deck from Quarry Street Pyrmont.

#### *Recommendations:*

As discussed in the introduction, external domain areas (landscape areas), are not covered under the mandatory BCA and DDA Access Code 2010, however remain subject to the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA). A complaint based legislation. Therefore the following should be considered (advisory only):

- (i) Ensure handrails are provided on both sides of the landscape stair and ramp, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009, to assist people with mobility and vision impairment.
- (ii) The landscape ramps should have gradients of no steeper than 1:14 with landing areas at maximum 9m intervals, to ensure a safe and appropriate path is provided for people with mobility impairment, compliant with AS1428.1-2009.
- (iii) Consider providing rest areas with seating along the ramps for elderly and people with mobility impairment. These areas need to be set back from the transverse path of travel of the ramps, compliant with AS1428.2-1992.

#### 5.1.2. Main Entrances

The entry point on the south/east corner of the building is classified as the ceremonial entrance of the building. This entry point consists of a large stairway, escalators and two passenger lifts. The large entry stairway and escalators provide access to the main building entry, on level 2 (RL12.0) of the development, for abled-bodied persons. The two passenger lifts, located directly to the west of the escalators, will ensure a continuous accessible path of travel to level 2 is provided for people with mobility impairment, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

In general, there is a continuous accessible path of travel from the bottom of the main entry stair, via Tumbalong Place, to these two passenger lifts, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The entry passenger lifts have internal dimensions that satisfy the minimum requirements of the DDA Access Code 2010.

The level 2 building entry provide sufficient circulation areas for wheelchair users to pass one another and to make a 180° turn in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The secondary entry point, on the north/east corner of the building, also consists of a large stairway and escalators. From the information provided, the passenger lift to the Harris Street pedestrian bridge provides access to the level 2 (entry level) of the development. The provision of the passenger lift will ensure equitable access into the building is provided for people with disabilities, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

*Recommendations:*

- (i) Ensure the bottom of ceremonial entry stair is set back a minimum 900mm from the transverse path of travel, to allow for suitable handrail extensions at TGSIs at the bottom of the stair, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.
- (ii) Ensure the main entry stairs have handrails with suitable handrail extensions, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

#### 5.1.3. Quarry Street Bridge Link

The provision of a new pedestrian bridge provides an accessible linkage from Quarry Street Pymont to the exhibition centre.

The use of a passenger lift adjacent to the stair allows wheelchair users to access the event deck on level 4 (RL21.50) of the building and the passenger lift adjacent to the stair and escalators to the east of the event deck.

The two passenger lifts on both sides of the event deck provide a continuous accessible path of travel from the new pedestrian bridge linkage to the event deck on level 4 and the terrace in front of the level 2 entry foyer, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

Both passenger lifts have internal dimensions that satisfy the minimum requirements of the DDA Access Code 201.

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Review is required at design development stage, to ensure the pedestrian bridge to Quarry Street provides gradients that are suitable for wheelchair users, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

#### 5.1.4. Emergency Egress

There are a number of fire egress stairs provided at the rear and front of the building. The fire stairs are not identified as general egress stairs.

*Recommendations:*

- (i) Consider providing wheelchair refuge areas in the fire egress stairs, in accordance with AS1428.2-1992. (Advisory - best practice)

- (ii) Emergency services should include audible and visual warning signals to assist people with sensory disabilities, in accordance with AS1428.2-1992. (Advisory - best practice)

## **5.2. Path of Travel**

### **5.2.1. Exhibition Halls (Level 1 and 4)**

There are in total 7 exhibition halls provided in the building. Four of the exhibition halls can be found on level 1 (RL6.0). The other three exhibition halls are located on level 4 (RL21.50), adjacent to the event deck.

In general, there is a continuous accessible path of travel from level 2 (RL12.0) entry foyer to each of the entry foyers of the halls on level 1 and level 4 of the building.

Access to the exhibition halls is provided via escalators, stairs and passenger lifts. The passenger lifts to the exhibition halls on level 1 are provided directly adjacent to the escalators and stair to this hall. The passenger lift to the exhibition halls on level 4 are spread along the exhibition concourses, within reasonable distance of the main stair and escalators to these exhibition halls, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

Generally, the passenger lifts provide a wheelchair accessible linkage between level 2 and the level 1 entry foyer of the exhibition halls 1-4 and the exhibition concourse on level 4, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The level 1 entry foyers and the level 4 exhibition concourse in front of the exhibition halls provide sufficient circulation areas to allow wheelchair users and people with a pram to pass one another in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The public toilet facilities and the kiosk associated with the exhibition halls can be accessed from within the exhibition halls, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

### **5.2.2. Exhibition Concourse**

The exhibition concourse on levels 2 to 5 provide sufficient circulation areas for wheelchair users to pass one another and to make a 180° turn, in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

In general, there is a continuous accessible path of travel from the concourse areas to the facilities and rooms (i.e. office, prayer rooms, sanitary facilities, press room, hospitality suites, external deck, business centre, meeting rooms, exhibition storage and outdoor terrace) located along the concourse areas, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

The corridors to some of these facilities have a minimum 1540mm width, allowing a person in a wheelchair to make a 180° turn in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

The level 2 exhibition concourse also provides a continuous accessible path of travel to the pedestrian linkages to the Theatre and the Convention centre, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

### **5.2.3. Passenger Lifts**

Vertical access to the concourse areas on the upper levels is achieved via escalators, stairs and passenger lifts. The passenger lifts are provided within reasonable distance from the

escalators and allow for a continuous accessible path of travel from level 2 to level 1 foyer halls and concourse areas on the upper levels, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

In general, there are sufficient circulation areas provided in front of the passenger lifts for a person in a wheelchair to enter and exit the lift in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

Each of these passenger lifts has internal dimensions that satisfy the minimum requirements of the DDA Access Code 2010.

#### 5.2.4. Level 1 Mezzanine

From the information provided, there is no lift access provided to the exhibition storages on level 1M. Currently, these rooms can only be accessed via stair, which could be non-compliant with DDA Access Code 2010.

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Detailed confirmation required from the client, outlining which duties and activities are required to access the store room area, to determine if this area can be exempted from access for people with a disability under BCA D3.4.

#### 5.2.5. Internal Stairs

In general the stairs, connecting level 2 to 5, are provided to the side of the exhibition concourse areas and are not obstructing the required circulation areas for wheelchair users, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

However, not all stairs are set back adequately or set in line with the void balustrade to ensure the handrail extensions are not protruding into the transverse path of travel, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

*Recommendations:*

- (i) Ensure the exposed underside of any stair (e.g. stair in front of linkage to the Theatre), in areas with less than 2m clearance, will have access impeded by suitable barrier, in accordance with AS1428.4.1-2009.
- (ii) Provide handrails on both sides of the stairs, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.
- (iii) The void balustrades need to line up with the handrail extensions of the stair, to provide suitable guidance for people with vision impairment, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

#### 5.2.6. External Event Deck

There is an external event deck provided on level 4 of the building. The event deck can be accessed from exhibition hall 7. Additionally, patrons can access the external event deck from the pedestrian bridge linkage with stair and passenger lift at the rear of the building and via the passenger lift, escalators and stair near the top of the ceremonial entry stair of the building.

The use of passenger lifts will ensure equitable access is provided to the event deck for people with disabilities, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The event deck has suitable circulation areas for wheelchair users to pass one another and to make a 360° turn, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.



*Recommendation:*

- (i) Provide a level transition between the exhibition hall 7 floor surfaces and the event deck, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

**5.2.7. Doors***Recommendation:*

- (i) Ensure the doorways have a minimum 850mm clear opening width and latch side clearances, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

**5.3. Sanitary Facilities****5.3.1. Accessible Toilet Facilities**

There are bank of toilets provided on level 1 to 5 of the building.

There are public toilet facilities provided for each exhibition hall, on level 1 of the building. There is accessible toilet facility provided at 50% of the bank of toilets of each of the halls 1 to 4, which is compliant with DDA Access Code 2010.

There is one bank of public toilets provided on level 2. There is an accessible toilet facility provided adjacent to the male and female toilets, which is compliant with DDA Access Code 2010.

There are three bank of toilets provided on level 3. There is an accessible toilet facility provided in two banks of toilets, which satisfies the requirement of 50% of the bank of toilets on a floor to include an accessible toilet facility, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010. There are also staff toilet facilities provided on this floor. The provision of staff accessible toilet facilities is achievable, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

There are public toilet facilities provided for each exhibition hall on level 4. There are accessible toilet facilities provided in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

There is one bank of public and one bank of staff toilet facilities provided level 5. There is an accessible toilet facility provided in the public bank of toilets, which is compliant with DDA Access Code 2010. However, review is required, to ensure an accessible staff toilet facility is provided on this floor, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010, which is achievable.

In general, the accessible toilets shown have sufficient internal dimension, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

*Recommendations:*

- (i) Review is required at design development stage, to ensure accessible staff toilet facilities are provided, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.
- (ii) The accessible toilet facilities need to have a minimum 1900mm x 2300mm unobstructed circulation area around the toilet pan. The minimum 440mm in depth washbasin may encroach a maximum 100mm into these circulation areas, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009 and AS1428.2-1992.

### 5.3.2. Ambulant Cubicle Facilities

There are ambulant cubicles provided in some of the male and female toilet facilities. However, some of the toilet facilities are still under review.

In general, it is achievable to provide an ambulant cubicle facility in the male and female toilets, in accordance with the DDA Access Code 2010 and AS1428.1-2009.

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Provide an ambulant cubicle facility in the male and in the female toilet facilities located in the bank of toilets with the accessible toilet facility, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

## 5.4. **Car Parking**

### 5.4.1. Accessible Car Parking Bays

There are a total of 722 car parking bays provided on the ground floor of the building. In general, it is achievable to ensure a minimum of 2% of the car parking bays are reserved for people with a disability, in accordance with the DDA Access Code 2010.

Patrons of the car park can enter and exit the building on the south/west and north/east corner of the building. From the information provided, the lifts servicing the car parking are goods lifts only and not to be used by visitors and staff to access the building from the carpark.

The south/west pedestrian entry/exit point of the car park is provided adjacent to the two (entry) passenger lifts adjoining the ceremonial entry stair and escalators. This area is expected to be highly used during opening and closing hours and should be reviewed to ensure the transverse path of travel to and from the car park is not obstructing the use of the passenger lifts and vice versa.

The north/east entry and exit point of the car park joins a road turn and could possibly be a hazardous area, due to the limited line of sight (for the driver in the vehicle). In general, the corridor to and from the north/east pedestrian entry/exit point appears to provide a suitable accessible path of travel for wheelchair users, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

There are pay stations provided near both pedestrian entry/exit points of the car park.

*Recommendations:*

- (i) Ensure the south/east pedestrian entry/exit point of the car park is not hindering the circulation areas in front of the passenger lifts, which are expected to be highly used.
- (ii) Ensure 2% of the car parking bays are allocated for people with a disability, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.
- (iii) The accessible car parking bays shall be provided near the pedestrian entry/exit points of the car park, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

Consider providing the accessible car parking bays near both pedestrian entry/exit points, to ensure people with mobility impairment could park near their preferred entrance of the building. (Advisory – best practice)

- (iv) The accessible car parking bays shall be 2.4m wide x 5.5m long and have an equivalent reserved shared zone adjacent, in accordance with AS2890.6-2009.
- (v) Ensure the accessible car parking bays have a minimum 2.5m vertical clearance, compliant with AS2890.6-2009.
- (vi) Provide a minimum 2.2m clearance from the car park entrance to the accessible car parking bay, in accordance with AS2890.6-2009.

## **5.5. Miscellaneous**

### **5.5.1. Hearing Augmentation**

#### *Recommendations:*

- (i) Where an inbuilt amplification system is to be installed within the building (other than one used only for emergency warning), a hearing augmentation system to assist people who are deaf or hearing impaired must be installed in line with DDA Access Code 2010 and BCA Part D3.7.
- (ii) The hearing augmentation system (for induction loops) must be provided to at least 80% of the floor area, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010 and BCA Part D3.7.

### **5.5.2. Signage**

#### *Recommendation:*

- (i) Provide suitable signage to identify accessible and sanitary facilities, compliant with the DDA Access Code 2010 and BCA part D3.6.

## **6. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE**

### **6.1. Ingress and Egress**

#### **6.1.1. Location and Site Access**

The proposed new International Convention Centre is located between the Exhibition Centre and the existing Harbourside shopping centre and the proposed new Hotel to the north of the development.

Access into the building is provided via four public entrances along Harbourside Place and The Boulevard, and a staff entrance located at the rear (west) of the building.

#### **6.1.2. Public Main Entrances**

Three of the public entrances are located at the top of the building entry stair on the north/east corner of the building. The fourth public entry is provided along Harbourside Place, near the drop-off area.

In general, there is accessible path of travel provided from Darling Harbour to the entry along Harbourside Place and to the entrances at the top of the entry stairs. Review is required, to ensure the paths of travel to the entrances at the top of the entry stair are not obstructed with proposed seating areas or the like.

The public entry points consist each of two revolving doorways and two hinged doorways adjacent, which allows wheelchair users to use the hinged doorways and to enter the building in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

In general, there is a continuous accessible path of travel from each of the entry doorways to the passenger lifts and facilities (e.g. toilet facilities, press/media room, cloak and reception room), in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

*Recommendations:*

- (i) Provide an unobstructed wheelchair accessible path of travel from Darling Harbour or Harbourside Place and The Boulevard to the entry doorways at the top of the entry stair, to comply with DDA Access Code 2010 Clause D3.2.
- (ii) Ensure handrails with extensions are provided on the entry stair, to assist people with mobility impairment, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.
- (iii) The entry hinged doorways adjacent to the revolving doorways need to be power operated, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

#### **6.1.3. Staff Entrance**

The staff entrance is located at the rear of the building. Further detail is required, to identify the external accessible path of travel to the staff entry of the building.

In general, there is a continuous accessible path of travel provided from the staff entrance, to the ground floor staff facilities (e.g. locker rooms, FM offices, Maintenance Workshop) and the passenger lifts to access the upper floors, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Review is required, to ensure a continuous accessible path of travel is provided to and from the staff entrance of the building, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

**6.1.4. Emergency Egress**

There are a number of fire egress stairs provided at the rear and front of the building. The fire stairs are not identified as general egress stairs.

*Recommendations:*

- (i) Consider providing wheelchair refuge areas in the fire egress stairs, in accordance with AS1428.2-1992. (Advisory - best practice)
- (ii) Emergency services should include audible and visual warning signals to assist people with sensory disabilities, in accordance with AS1428.2-1992. (Advisory - best practice)

**6.2. Path of Travel****6.2.1. Ground Floor Entry Lobby**

The ground floor entry lobby provides sufficient circulation areas for wheelchair users to pass one another and to make a 180° turn in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

In general, there is a continuous accessible path of travel to the ground floor facilities (i.e. Wi-Fi lounge, toilet facilities and café) and the passenger lifts, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

**6.2.2. Circulation Areas and General Pre-Function Areas**

The circulation corridors and the pre-function areas of the theatres and meeting rooms on level 2, 3 and 4 have sufficient circulation areas for wheelchair users to pass one another and to perform a 180° turn in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

In general, there is a continuous accessible path of travel to and from the passenger lifts to the entry points and rooms located along the pre-function and the circulation corridors, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

**6.2.3. Passenger Lifts**

There are a number of passenger lifts that provide a continuous accessible path of travel between the different floors of the building.

There are four main passenger lifts, that are located near the ground floor entry points of the building, that provide a continuous accessible path of travel from the entry lobby to pre-function areas of the Ballroom, Darling Harbour Theatre, Cockle Bay Room, Meeting Rooms and the Convex Space, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

In general, there are sufficient circulation areas provided in front of the passenger lifts for a person in a wheelchair to enter and exit the lift in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

Each of these passenger lifts has internal dimensions that satisfy the minimum requirements of the DDA Access Code 2010.

#### 6.2.4. Internal Stairs and Escalators

In general, there are internal stairs and escalators provided in addition to the passenger lifts. Both the internal stairs and escalators are located within reasonable distance of the passenger lifts, to ensure equitable access for wheelchair access, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The internal stairs and escalators are not obstructing the transverse path of travel, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

*Recommendations:*

- (i) Ensure the exposed underside of any stair, in areas with less than 2m clearance, will have access impeded by suitable barrier, in accordance with AS1428.4.1-2009.
- (ii) Provide handrails on both sides of the stairs, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.
- (iii) The void balustrades need to line up with the handrail extensions of the stair, to provide suitable guidance for people with vision impairment, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

#### 6.2.5. Linkages

The bridge link between the Convention and Exhibition Centre provide a wheelchair accessible path of travel between the two buildings, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The linkage has a sufficient width to allow two wheelchair users to pass one another or for a wheelchair user to perform a 180° turn in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

#### 6.2.6. Doors

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Ensure the doorways have a minimum 850mm clear opening width and latch side clearances, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

### 6.3. **Facilities**

#### 6.3.1. Darling Harbour Theatre

The main theatre in the Convention Centre, also known as the Darling Harbour Theatre, is located near the north/west corner of the building. From the information provided, the theatre holds a total of approx. 2200 seats, extending from level 2 to level 5 of the development.

The wheelchair seating spaces are provided on both sides of the front row of the lower tier of the theatre. From the information provided, wheelchair seating spaces are proposed to be provided in locations that are representative of the range of seating in the theatre. In general, it is achievable to provide adequate accessible seating spaces in the theatre, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The stage area can be found on level 2 of the building. From the information provided, there is a height difference between the stage and the flooring at the theatre. There appears to be no stair and lift access provided to the stage from within the theatre.

Patrons enter the theatre from the pre-function area on level 2, 4 and 5. The level 2 entry airlocks to the theatre provide sufficient clearance between the doorways for wheelchair users to operate the doors independently, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009. The corridor from the entry airlock to the seat in the front row provides sufficient circulation areas for wheelchairs to make 360° turn and for wheelchair users and high volume of patrons to pass one another, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

Further information is required, to confirm the path of travel from the facilities (e.g. green room and lounge) at the rear of the stage to the stage area.

*Recommendations:*

- (i) Ensure lift access to stage is provided, when stair access to the stage is provided (temporary or permanent) from within the theatre, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.
- (ii) Provide 16 wheelchair seating spaces plus 1 additional space for each additional 100 seats or part thereof in excess of 800 seats, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010 Table D3.9.
- (iii) The location of the wheelchair seating spaces is to be representative of the range of seating provided, compliant with DDA Access Code 2010 Table D3.9.
- (iv) Ensure the wheelchair seating spaces are grouped in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010 Table D3.9.

### 6.3.2. Pre-function Darling Harbour Theatre

The pre-function area on level 2, 4 and 5 of the Darling Harbour Theatre have sufficient circulation areas for wheelchair users to pass one another and to perform a 180° turn in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

In general, there is a continuous accessible path of travel to and from the passenger lifts to the entry points and rooms located along the pre-function areas (e.g. audio visual control room), in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

### 6.3.3. Pymont Theatre

There is an additional theatre, also known as the Pymont Theatre, located near the south/west corner of the building. From the information provided, the theatre holds a total of approx. 1000 seats, extending over level 1 and 2 of the development.

From the information provided, wheelchair seating spaces are proposed to be provided in locations that are representative of the range of seating in the theatre. In general, it is achievable to provide adequate accessible seating spaces in the theatre, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The theatre can be entered from the pre-function area on level 2, which opens to the top tier seating. Currently there appears to be no wheelchair access provided to seating areas in the theatre, which is non-compliant with DDA Access Code 2010.

The stage of the theatre can be entered from the meeting room pre function area on level 2, via the stairs and the passenger lift. The passenger lift has appropriate internal dimensions in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

Additionally, stair access is provided for patrons to access the stage from within the theatre. However, there are no provisions for wheelchair users to access the stage from within the theatre, which is non-compliant with DDA Access Code 2010.

*Recommendations:*

- (i) Provide lift access to the stage area from within theatre, to allow for equitable facilities for people with a disability, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.
- (ii) Provide 16 wheelchair seating spaces plus 1 additional space for each additional 100 seats or part thereof in excess of 800 seats, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010 Table D3.9.
- (iii) The location of the wheelchair seating spaces is to be representative of the range of seating provided, compliant with DDA Access Code 2010 Table D3.9.
- (iv) Ensure the wheelchair seating spaces are grouped in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010 Table D3.9.

#### 6.3.4. Pre-function Pymont Theatre

The pre-function area of the Pymont Theatre has sufficient circulation areas for wheelchair users to pass one another and to make a 180° turn in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

There appears to be a level transition between the function area and the associated balcony area to the east of the function area, which is suitable for wheelchair users, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

The balcony has a sufficient width for wheelchair users to perform a 360° turn, in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

#### 6.3.5. The Grand Ballroom

Two passenger lifts in addition to escalators and stairs, provide a wheelchair accessible path of travel to the pre-function area of the Grand Ballroom on level 5, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

The pre-function area of The Grand Ballroom has sufficient circulation areas for wheelchair users to pass one another and to make 180° turn in an equitable and dignified manner, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

In general, there is a continuous accessible path of travel from the passenger and the pre-function area to the toilet facilities to the south and to the east of the grand ball room, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009.

### 6.4. **Sanitary Facilities**

#### 6.4.1. Accessible Toilet Facilities

There are two bank of public toilets provided near the entrances of the building. There is an accessible toilet facility provided in one bank of public toilets near the café area, which satisfies the minimum requirement of 50% of the bank of toilets to include an accessible toilet facility, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

There are also staff toilet facilities provided near the staff entrance of the building. The existing staff accessible toilet will need to be upgraded, to comply with DDA Access Code 2010.



There is a bank of staff and public toilet facilities provided on level 1. The staff toilets are associated with the meeting rooms and workstations near the east facade of the building. The public toilets are most likely to be used by the visitors and users of the convex space. Currently, there is only an accessible toilet facility provided in the staff bank of toilets, which is non-compliant with DDA Access Code 2010.

There are three banks of toilets facilities provided on level 2. The banks of toilets are provided in the pre-function area of the meeting rooms, Pymont Theatre and the Darling Harbour Theatre. There is an accessible toilet facility provided in both the Pymont Theatre pre function area and the bank of toilets in front of the meeting rooms. Review is required at the design development stage, to ensure an accessible toilet facility is provided in the bank of toilets of the Darling Harbour Theatre, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010, which is achievable.

There are two banks of public toilets on level 3, to service the meeting and Cockle Bay rooms. There is an accessible toilet facility provided in both the bank of toilets, which is compliant with DDA Access Code 2010.

There is one bank of public toilets on level 4, to service both the meeting rooms and the Darling Harbour Theatre. There is an accessible toilet facility provided adjacent to the male and female toilets, which is compliant with DDA Access Code 2010.

There are two bank of public toilets provided on level 5. One bank of toilets is associated with the Grand Ballroom and the other to the Darling Harbour theatre. There is an accessible toilet facility provided in both bank of toilets, which is compliant with DDA Access Code 2010.

*Recommendations:*

- (i) Upgrade the existing staff accessible toilet on level 1, to comply with DDA Access Code 2010.
- (ii) Provide an accessible unisex toilet facility in the public toilet facilities on level 1, the Darling Harbour Theatre public toilets on level 2, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.
- (iii) The accessible toilet facilities need to have a minimum 1900mm x 2300mm unobstructed circulation area around the toilet pan. The minimum 440mm in depth washbasin may encroach a maximum 100mm into these circulation areas, in accordance with AS1428.1-2009 and AS1428.2-1992.

#### 6.4.2. Ambulant Cubicle Facilities

There are ambulant cubicles provided in some of the male and female toilet facilities. However, some of the toilet facilities are still under review.

In general, it is achievable to provide an ambulant cubicle facility in the male and female toilets, in accordance with the DDA Access Code 2010 and AS1428.1-2009.

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Provide an ambulant cubicle facility in the male and in the female toilet facilities located in the bank of toilets with the accessible toilet facility, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010.

## **6.5. Miscellaneous**

### **6.5.1. Hearing Augmentation**

*Recommendations:*

- (i) Where an inbuilt amplification system is to be installed within the building (other than one used only for emergency warning), a hearing augmentation system to assist people who are deaf or hearing impaired must be installed in line with DDA Access Code 2010 and BCA Part D3.7.
- (ii) The hearing augmentation system (for induction loops) must be provided to at least 80% of the floor area, in accordance with DDA Access Code 2010 and BCA Part D3.7.

### **6.5.2. Signage**

*Recommendation:*

- (i) Provide suitable signage to identify accessible and sanitary facilities, compliant with the DDA Access Code 2010 and BCA part D3.6.