

## **BRIDGE POLICY CIRCULAR**

### **BPC2005/09**

#### **SUBJECT: Provision of disabled access for pedestrian bridges**

<b>No of Drawings Following</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>No of Appendix Sheets Following</b>	
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#### ***Background***

Recently there has been some confusion about the requirements for disabled access for some pedestrian bridges designed to provide access to schools. The confusion arises as the Building Code of Australia does not apply to bridges, and in Australian Bridge Design Code of 1996, there were no specific clauses relating to disabled access. However AS5100.1 Clause 9.11 states "Where a pedestrian access is required to cater for wheelchairs and physically handicapped pedestrians, the requirements of AS1428.1 shall be satisfied." The Anti-Discrimination Act allows a concession where the provision of disabled access would impose undue hardship on the provider of the facility.

AS5100 requires that bicycle path ramps have a maximum grade of 1 in 8, but AS1428.1 requires a maximum grade of 1 in 14, along with rest areas every 9m of length for disabled access. This can become impractical when ramping to the height of a pedestrian bridge and can require 100m or more in ramp length and may also not serve the needs of the disabled user. The use of relatively flat ramps is also impractical where the existing street grade is above the 1:14 required under AS1428.1. In such cases, steeper ramps and lifts must be considered.

#### ***Policy***

RTA bridgeworks must comply with AS5100, including disabled access as appropriate. In some circumstances, physical constraints preclude the provision of suitable grades for long distances on the approaches to the bridge. In such circumstances, the RTA makes use of the 'undue hardship' provision of the act to install ramps no steeper than the approach grades or 1:8, whichever is less, is considered acceptable. In such cases the Project Manager, the Asset Manager, and the Manager Bridge Engineering must specifically record agreement in the Bridge Design Proposal.

#### ***Application***

This Policy applies to all new pedestrian bridge designs from the date of signature.

#### ***Action Required***

Project Managers must determine the disabled access needs prior to design of pedestrian bridges, and the practicality and lifecycle costs of the selected solution must be considered in the design.

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Project Managers, Bridge Designers, Design Reviewers, Project Verifiers and Principal's Representatives must make sure that design of pedestrian bridges conform to the requirements of this Circular.



Gordon Chirgwin

Manager Bridge Policies, Standards &  
Records

Date ~~30~~ Nov 2005

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