



## Minister for Public Transport Minister for Roads

Ref: DOT105563R

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Dear Mr Jordan

### **IMPLEMENTING CONSISTENT REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE**

Thank you for your letter of 31 August 2011 regarding the implementation of consistent requirements for public transport infrastructure. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002* (DSAPT) and the *Transport Integration Act 2010* recognise and reaffirm the need for railway stations and public transport infrastructure to be designed in a way that reflects the broader needs of the community.

The Coalition Government is committed to ensuring that transport infrastructure meets the needs of the people that use it. As part of this commitment, a number of initiatives to improve the accessibility of Victoria's public transport network are being implemented.

A Station Useability Panel has been established to inform the development of all new railway stations and redevelopment projects. The Panel will review and provide advice on how user and community considerations could be better reflected in the design and operation of transport infrastructure.

User design requirements are being developed to be applied to new railway stations and stations undergoing a substantial upgrade. These requirements will improve the quality of design, encourage safe use of public transport by people of all abilities and support future growth and mobility. This will help to improve consistency between railway station designs which, as you are aware, can vary as a result of changes to the rail network over time.

The Department of Transport (DOT) and Metro continue to work together to develop options for improving access to trains. This includes the trial of a fixed ramp at Box Hill railway station which is designed to reduce the gap between trains and railway platforms. The feedback I have received from both DOT and Metro has been very positive since its installation.



Consideration is being given to rolling this type of initiative out across the network. In the meantime, a boarding device will continue to be provided where the vertical and horizontal gap between a platform and vehicle exceeds 12mm and 40mm respectively, or upon request.

Accessibility is a key consideration when purchasing new trains. The current order for 45 new X'Trapolis trains is based on the same design as the existing X'Trapolis trains operating on the system. This will increase the consistency of trains on the railway network over time.

A number of work programs are also underway to improve the accessibility of Melbourne's tram network. Trams stops are progressively being upgraded to level access stops and 50 new low floor trams will be introduced from next year.

DOT, Yarra Trams and Bombardier recently undertook a number of accessibility trials on a mock-up of the new E class tram, which I believe you attended. The feedback I have received from both DOT and Yarra Trams was extremely positive. These trials confirmed that the trams were accessible for the vast majority of participants but also identified a number of areas for improvement in the final design of the tram. These variations are currently being negotiated with the supplier, Bombardier.

The Coalition Government is progressively implementing the requirements of DSAPT to remove barriers to access to public transport for people with a disability. As you would be aware, \$20 million over four years was allocated in the 2011-12 State Budget to continue the upgrade of railway stations and bus stops to improve accessibility.

DSAPT mandates specific requirements to be met and measures compliance against milestones. There are considerable challenges in meeting these requirements for existing infrastructure. Long timeframes are therefore included in the legislative framework. It is expected that public transport infrastructure will be accessible by 2022 and rolling stock (including trains and trams) by 2032.

If you require further information, please contact Alison Smith of DOT on telephone (03) 9655 6506.

Yours sincerely



**Hon Terry Mulder MP**  
Minister for Public Transport

7/10/2011