

RELEVANT INFORMATION FOR COUNCIL

FILE: S060627-02 **DATE:** 20 October 2016
TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Louise Kerr, Acting Director City Planning, Development and Transport
SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 9.3 - Post-Exhibition - Outdoor Dining and Displays of Goods on the Footway - At Council - 24 October 2016

That the Lord Mayor and Councillors note the information contained in this memo.

Purpose

To provide additional information following consideration of the subject report at the Planning and Development Committee on 10 October 2016.

Background

At the meeting, Councillors sought further information on the use of tactile indicators to assist wayfinding in the public domain.

The information requested arises from a proposal in the draft Outdoor Dining Action Plan to investigate and develop alternative navigation aids for pedestrians who are blind or have low vision that could be used as an alternative to Tactile Ground Surface Indicators.

Tactile indicators help people who are blind or have low vision navigate in the public domain. The Disability Discrimination Act 1993 requires that, when they are used, tactile indicators are installed to comply with the relevant Australian Standard.

Tactile indicators are detected underfoot, by cane tip or by their contrasting colour and there are two types:

- A grid of raised dots indicates the ground surface will be changing – a ramp, stairs or train platform edge may be imminent. The Australian Standard requires dots to be clustered in 12 parallel rows when used for this purpose.
- Parallel raised lines are directional and indicate the direction of safe travel. The Australian Standard requires four parallel rows of raised lines to be used for this purpose.

Extensive use of tactile indicators can be highly visible, require intensive maintenance, and can be uncomfortable for wheelchair and prams users. The proposed trial of alternative indicators would operate similar directional indicators described above by providing a cane detectable directional element which would facilitate navigation by acting as an alternative shoreline. This approach would be less intrusive within the public domain. This is similar to solutions implemented in other cities such as Copenhagen.

The trial of these alternative tactile indicators would be undertaken in conjunction with stakeholders.

Other additional information sought by Councillors included:

Is more consistent use of less intrusive indicators possible, and what is the rationale for not adopting them universally as a way forward?

Currently, tactile indicators must be installed in accordance with the relevant Australian Standard.

What steps is the City taking to install tactile guides or other forms of wayfinding across the city to help with movement?

The City has recently installed over 2,200 tactile/ braille wayfinding signs located on poles adjacent to signalised pedestrian crossings across the local government area. These signs provide street and property block number information in both braille and raised tactile lettering. The design development and prototyping of these signs was in collaboration with Vision Australia and Guide Dogs NSW/ACT.

The City has a program to install tactile indicators at locations, including all bus stops and selected pedestrian ramps, street corners and thoroughfares.

Could more detail be provided about the other kinds of options around the use of tactile markers on the pavements?

The examples shown in the attachment are in use in Copenhagen, and indicate that a range of alternative approaches should be explored. The examples include low-profile metal inserts within pavers, a contrasting cobblestone used alongside pavers, and a paver incorporating discrete raised dots.

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Attachments

Attachment A - Examples of alternative shoreline treatments on footways

Approved



**Louise Kerr, Acting Director City Planning,
Development and Transport**

ATTACHMENT A

**EXAMPLES OF ALTERNATIVE SHORELINE
TREATMENTS ON FOOTWAYS**



Example 1 – low-profile metal inserts within pavers to indicate directional travel.



Example 2 – paver with discrete, texturally contrasting raised dots for directional travel.



Example 3 – a contrasting, recessed cobble is used in conjunction with pavers for directional travel