



**ACT**  
Government

Transport Canberra and  
City Services

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COVERSHEET

The following information is provided pursuant to section 28 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*.

FOI reference: TCCSFOI 2018-003

Information to be published	Status
1. Access application	Published
2. Decision notice	Published
3. Documents and schedule	Published with redactions
4. Additional information identified	No
5. Fees	Public Interest
6. Processing time (in working days)	32 days (extension granted)
7. Decision made by Ombudsman	n/a
8. Additional information identified by Ombudsman	n/a
9. Decision made by ACAT	n/a
10. Additional information identified by ACAT	n/a

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**From:** EPSDFOI  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 January 2018 3:59 PM  
**To:** TCCS\_FreedomOfInformation  
**Subject:** FW: Umbagog District Park Stepping Stones Survey (Latham 2013)  
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi TCCS,

We have received the below request for information. I have conducted a search of our records and haven't located anything relevant. I then did some googling and it looks like the survey mentioned was undertaken by TCCS.

Do you accept a transfer?

Regards,

Heather

Heather Johnston

Information and Systems Support (Freedom of Information)

Phone 02 6207 1941

Information Management | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development | ACT Government

Dame Pattle Menzies House, Challs Street, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.environment.act.gov.au](http://www.environment.act.gov.au)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 January 2018 5:34 PM  
**To:** EPSDFOI <EPSDFOI@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Umbagog District Park Stepping Stones Survey (Latham 2013)

Hi Team,

I'm doing some research into a ACT Government-conducted survey of Latham residents in 2013.

The survey related to the construction of a bridge to replace the existing stepping stones located in Umbagog District Park in Latham.

I'd love to get a copy of:

- The original survey wording (I think it was conducted online on the ACT government website?)
- A copy of the final results (numbers for/against)
- Any rulings made at the time about the survey results (eg we are not pursuing a more accessible bridge at this time)

I'm hoping to lobby for a more accessible access point to the Umbagog District Park for those with a disability, and this survey has been cited as an important reason for not offering a more accessible park.

Let me know if you need any further info, or whether there is a better approach/format for me to request this information,



**ACT**  
Government

Transport Canberra and  
City Services



Dear 

**Freedom of information request:** Reference 18-003

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the FOI Act) received by Transport Canberra and City Services on 16 January 2018, in which you sought access to research into an ACT Government survey related to the construction of a bridge to replace the existing stepping stones located in Umbagog District Park in Latham, in particular

- the wording of the original survey;
- a copy of the results; and
- any rulings made at the time about the survey results.

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General under section 18 of the Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act.

I understand that you have agreed to an extension for TCCS to provide a decision on your access application by 28 February 2018.

**Decision on access**

Searches were completed for relevant documents and 15 documents were identified that fall within the scope of your request.

I have included as Attachment A to this decision the schedule of relevant documents. This provides a description of each document that falls within the scope of your request and the access decision for each of those documents.

Documents identified as relevant to your request contain information that I consider to be, on balance, contrary to the public interest to disclose under the test set out in section 17 of the Act.

I have decided to grant access, under section 50 of the Act, to copies of documents (Attachment B) with deletions applied to information that I consider would be contrary to the public interest to disclose.

### **Statement of Reasons**

The information considered contrary to the public interest to disclose includes:

- the name and contact address of a resident; and
- legal advice from the Government Solicitor's office.

The material I have considered in the assessment of these documents includes:

- the FOI Act, in particular:
  - Schedule 2 (b)(i) – the person making the request
  - Schedule 1.2 – Information subject to legal professional privilege
- the *Information Privacy Act 2014*; and
- the content of the documents that fall within the scope your request.

Reference number 5, 8 and 15 of the identified documents contains personal information of a third party. Disclosure of personal information is governed by the 'use and disclosure' privacy principles. Part 3 of the Information Privacy Act 2014 (TTP 6.1) states that an agency that holds personal information about an individual that has been collected for a particular purpose, must not disclose the information to a third party unless the individual has consented to the use or disclosure of the information. On this basis, I have decided that it is not in the public interest to disclose this information.

Reference number 3 and 10 of the identified documents contains information that is considered contrary to the public interest under schedule 1 of the Act.

These documents contain advice from the ACT Government Solicitor's office. Schedule 1.2 details information subject to legal professional privilege as:

- *Information that would be privileged from production or admission into evidence in a legal proceeding on the ground of legal professional privilege.*

Privilege is not waived on this advice. I have therefore decided to grant access to document referenced 3 with deletions applied and to refuse access in full to document referenced 10 to information that I consider would be contrary to the public interest to disclose.

### **Charges**

Your request has exceeded the threshold of 50 pages. I have however decided to waive any processing fees as the information is of special benefit to the public because your inquiries reflect community interest.

### **Online publishing – disclosure log**

Under section 28 of the Act, TCCS maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. Your original access application and my decision in response to your access application will be published in the TCCS disclosure log from 3 days after the date of this decision. Your personal details will not be published.

You may view TCCS' disclosure log at [www.tccs.act.gov.au/about-us/freedom\\_of\\_information](http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/about-us/freedom_of_information).

**Ombudsman review**

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in TCCS' disclosure log or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision, you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman  
GPO Box 442  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via email: [ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au)

**ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) review**

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision.

Further information may be obtained from ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal  
Level 4, 1 Moore Street  
GPO Box 370  
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601  
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740  
[www.acat.act.gov.au](http://www.acat.act.gov.au)

If you have any questions concerning the directorate's processing of your request, or would like further information, please contact the directorate's FOI Coordinator on 6205 5408 or email [tccs.foi@act.gov.au](mailto:tccs.foi@act.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Cherie Hughes  
Information Officer  
Transport Canberra and City Services

28 February 2018



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION SCHEDULE

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2016, SOME OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO YOU WILL BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE ACT GOVERNMENT'S OPEN ACCESS SCHEME. THE OPEN ACCESS RELEASE STATUS COLUMN OF THE TABLE BELOW INDICATES WHAT DOCUMENTS ARE INTENDED FOR RELEASE ONLINE THROUGH OPEN ACCESS.

PERSONAL INFORMATION OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS INFORMATION WILL NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE UNDER THIS POLICY. IF YOU THINK THE CONTENT OF YOUR REQUEST WOULD CONTAIN SUCH INFORMATION, PLEASE INFORM THE CONTACT OFFICER IMMEDIATELY.

INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT IS PUBLISHED ON OPEN ACCESS IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: [HTTP://WWW.TCCS.ACT.GOV.AU/ABOUT-US/FREEDOM\\_OF\\_INFORMATION](http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/about-us/freedom_of_information)

REFERENCE NO	WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST					
TCCS FOI 18-003	STEPPING STONE CROSSING ON GINNINDERRA CREEK					
REF NO	PAGE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	DATE	STATUS	REASON FOR NON-RELEASE OR DEFERRAL	OPEN ACCESS RELEASE STATUS
1	1	LETTER	28 JUNE 2013	FULL ACCESS		FULL ACCESS
2	2-3	MEDIA RELEASE		FULL ACCESS		FULL ACCESS
3	4-6	BRIEF	7 MAY 2013	PARTIAL ACCESS	SCHEDULE 1, 1.2 -- INFORMATION SUBJECT TO LEGAL PROFESSIONAL PRIVILEGE	PARTIAL ACCESS
4	7-8	BRIEF	10 OCTOBER 2012	FULL ACCESS		FULL ACCESS
5	9-10	BRIEF	24 JULY 2012	PARTIAL ACCESS	PERSONAL INFORMATION	PARTIAL ACCESS
6	11	MAP		FULL ACCESS		FULL ACCESS

7	12-17	REPORT	28 NOVEMBER 2011	FULL ACCESS		FULL ACCESS
8	18	MINISTERIAL RESPONSE (DRAFT)		PARTIAL ACCESS	PERSONAL INFORMATION	PARTIAL ACCESS
9	19-66	SURVEY RESULTS	VARIOUS	FULL ACCESS		FULL ACCESS
10	67-76	ACT GOVERNMENT SOLICITOR ADVICE	19 APRIL 2013	ACCESS REFUSED	SCHEDULE 1, 1.2 - INFORMATION SUBJECT TO LEGAL PROFESSIONAL PRIVILEGE	ACCESS REFUSED
11	77	MEDIA RELEASE (DRAFT)	NOVEMBER 2012	FULL ACCESS		FULL ACCESS
12	78-80	COMMUNITY SURVEY FORM (DRAFT)	2012	FULL ACCESS		FULL ACCESS
13	81	WEB TEXT (DRAFT)	2012	FULL ACCESS		FULL ACCESS
14	82	FACT SHEET		FULL ACCESS		FULL ACCESS
15	83-156	REPORT - STEPPING STONE CROSSING AT UMBAGONG PARK, LATHAM	22 NOVEMBER 2013	PARTIAL ACCESS	PERSONAL INFORMATION	PARTIAL ACCESS



**ACT**  
Government

Territory and Municipal Services

Dear Resident

**Stepping Stone Crossing on Ginninderra Creek, Umbagog Park**

Roads ACT has been investigating safety and access concerns regarding the stepping stone crossing in Umbagog Park over the past 18 months.

A number of public meetings have been convened by the Belconnen Community Council and at a meeting in September 2012 it was agreed that a wider consultation of West Belconnen residents be undertaken on this matter.

This consultation took place between December 2012 and February 2013 where residents were asked their views on a number of different options for crossing of this part of Ginninderra Creek. TAMS received 168 submissions. The majority of respondents, approximately 80%, preferred no change to the current arrangements.

While some concerns had been raised that the stepping stones discriminate against people with a disability, cyclists and people with wheelchairs or prams, given that safe alternative crossing points exist and are now signposted, the ACT Government considers that it complies with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act of 1992.

As a result of the consultation and investigations undertaken by Roads ACT, the ACT Government has decided that the current arrangements at the stepping stones will stay in place.

Roads ACT will undertake a detailed assessment of the safety of the current arrangements and this will be used as the basis for any future improvements at the stepping stone crossing.

I thank those residents who have taken part in the consultation process. Background information and the results of the resident's survey can also be found on the TAMS website at [www.tams.act.gov.au](http://www.tams.act.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Tony Gill  
Director  
Roads ACT  
[tony.gill@act.gov.au](mailto:tony.gill@act.gov.au)

28 June 2013



## Shane Rattenbury MLA

MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES  
 MINISTER FOR CORRECTIONS  
 MINISTER FOR HOUSING  
 MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS  
 MINISTER FOR AGEING

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Stepping stone crossing to stay

Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Shane Rattenbury, today announced the results of a community consultation about the future of a stepping stone crossing of Ginninderra Creek in Umbagog District Park.

"The stepping stones have provided local residents with a means to cross Ginninderra Creek since 1993 when Umbagog District Park opened," Mr Rattenbury said. "A footbridge is also available further up the river near a playground and barbeque area for people to cross.

"Territory and Municipal Services has been investigating safety and access concerns regarding the stepping stone crossing in Umbagog Park over the past 18 months. A number of public meetings have been convened by the Belconnen Community Council and at a meeting in September 2012 it was agreed that a wider consultation of West Belconnen residents be undertaken on this matter.

"This wider consultation took place between December 2012 and February 2013 where residents were asked their views on a number of different options for the crossing of this part of Ginninderra Creek. Options included removing the stepping stones all together, constructing a low level crossing, constructing a bridge, or improved signage with no change to the current arrangements

"More than 160 surveys were completed and about 80% of the responses received by TAMS preferred no change to the current arrangements."

Mr Rattenbury said "while some concerns had been raised that the stepping stones discriminate against people with a disability, cyclists and people with wheelchairs or prams, given that safe alternative crossing points exist and are now signposted, the ACT Government considers that it complies with the requirements of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

"As a result of the consultation and investigations undertaken by TAMS the ACT Government has decided that the current arrangements at the stepping stones will stay in place.

"TAMS will undertake a detailed assessment of the safety of the current arrangements and this will be used as the basis for any future improvements at the stepping stone crossing," Mr Rattenbury concluded.

For more information about the results of the consultation visit [www.timetotalk.act.gov.au](http://www.timetotalk.act.gov.au)

**NOTE:** This media release will be considered a draft only until it has been through appropriate Communications and Marketing Unit approval processes.  
**DO NOT DELETE THIS NOTE.**

ACT Legislative Assembly



## WEB text

### Stepping stone crossing in Umbagog District Park

Between December 2012 and February 2013 residents of West Belconnen and other interested stakeholders were invited to complete a community survey on the future of a stepping stone crossing in Umbagog District Park.

The stepping stones have provided local residents with a means to cross Ginninderra Creek since 1993 when Umbagog District Park opened. A footbridge is also available further up the river near a playground and barbeque area for people to cross. During significant wet weather events the crossing becomes flooded and it is not safe to use the stepping stones.

Following concerns raised by some residents around the general accessibility of the stepping stones, Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) commissioned an independent consultant to assess the safety of the crossing. In September 2012, warning signage was erected on the approaches to the stepping stones and four options were identified for consultation with the community. These included removing the stepping stones, constructing a low level crossing, constructing a bridge, or making no change to the current arrangements.

### Consultation results

Community consultation on the future of the stepping stones ran from Wednesday 28 November 2012 until Wednesday 6 February 2013. During this time TAMS received 168 submissions.

The majority of survey respondents were regular users of the crossing with approximately 25% of the people completing the survey using the crossing daily, 22% using it more than once a week, 20% using it once a week, 23% using it monthly and 10% never using it.

In response to the question 'what is your preferred option for the future of the stepping stone crossing?' approximately 80% of the respondents preferred no change to the current arrangements, 15% preferred constructing a bridge while 5% preferred a low level crossing.

The majority of survey respondents were very fond of the crossing with 128 submissions commenting on various aspects of the stepping stones that the community values including their unique and informal character as well as the fun people of all ages have using them.

There were a number of submissions which raised concerns about access for wheelchairs, bikes and prams (14 submissions); safety (13 submissions) and the impact of flooding (12 submissions).

While some concerns had been raised that the stepping stones discriminate against people with a disability, cyclists and people with wheelchairs or prams, given that safe alternative crossing points exist and are now signposted, the ACT Government considers that it complies with the requirements of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

As a result of the consultation and investigations undertaken by TAMS, the ACT Government has decided that the current arrangements at the stepping stones will stay in place.

TAMS will undertake a detailed assessment of the safety of the current arrangements and this will be used as the basis for any future improvements at the stepping stone crossing.

The ACT Government would like to thank residents for providing feedback on the future of the stepping stone crossing.



**ACT**  
Government  
Territory and Municipal Services

*AK 7/6/13*  
*stepping stones*

*file*

RECEIVED  
13 MAY 2013  
Minister for TAMS

**BRIEF**

TRIM: B13/34

Date 7 May 2013

To Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

- A/g Director-General *AK 10/v*
- Director-General's Executive Officer *W 10/5/13*
- Executive Director, Roads & Public Transport *7.5.13*
- Director, Finance *AK 8/5/13*

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From Director Roads ACT

Subject Umbagog District Park - Outcomes of the Stepping Stones Consultation

**Recommendation**

That you:

- a) Note the information contained in the brief; **NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS**
- b) Agree that TAMS adopts the minimal approach of installing signs advising of alternative access points to Umbagog District Park in the first instance; **AGREED/NOT AGREED/NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS**
- c) Agree that a more comprehensive risk assessment be undertaken at the stepping stones; and **AGREED/NOT AGREED/NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS**
- d) Agree that you will advise the public on this matter through a media release. **AGREED/NOT AGREED/NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS**

*Shane Rattenbury MLA*  *3/6/13*

**Critical Date**  
17 May 2013.

**Purpose**

To brief you on the outcome of the community consultation in relation to the stepping stones in Latham as well as the legal advice from the Government Solicitor's Office regarding [REDACTED]

**Background**

The previous Minister for Territory and Municipal Services was briefed on this issue in July 2012 and the Director-General TAMS was also briefed in October 2012. Copies of these briefings are included at Attachment A. You were verbally briefed on this matter when you visited TAMS in November 2012. The consultation has now concluded and a summary is included at Attachment B.

**Issues**

The public consultation took place between December 2012 and February 2013 and attracted 168 responses. With reference to Attachment B, almost 80% or 106 of the responses preferred no change to the current arrangements.

Advice has been provided by the ACT Government Solicitor's Office [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Consultation**

TAMS has consulted widely on this matter including two public meetings, an on-line survey, surveys available at shopfronts and a separate meeting with the Umbagog District Landcare Group.

**Financial**

The minimal response which covers the provision of advisory signs of alternative access points to the park has a low financial impact.

A more comprehensive risk assessment could result in actions that warrant capital work investments in future years.

**Media**

This matter has attracted considerable media attention to date and there is interest in the outcome of the consultation.



Tony Gill  
Director  
Roads ACT

8 May 2013

Phone: 6207 26588

19238

*Mike*

#46672

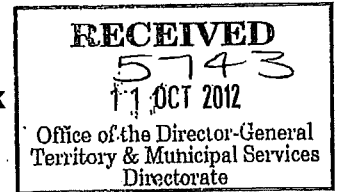


**ACT**  
Government

Territory and Municipal Services

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL MINUTE**

**Matter for consideration: Stepping Stones – Ginninderra Creek**



**Recommendations:** That you:

1. Agree to the recommendation that TAMS continue the wider consultation in West Belconnen on the stepping stones after 20 October 2012.

Through:

Paul Peters  
Executive Director, Transport and Infrastructure

10.../.../12

Tony *Bill Tony 84*  
Director Roads ACT

9.../.../12

**Background**

On 13 September 2012 Roads ACT conducted a public meeting in Latham Primary School concerning the safety and access issues associated with the stepping stones access at Ginninderra Creek.

**Issues**

This meeting was attended by some 50 residents from Latham and Macgregor.

Roads ACT outlined the background and an access consultant report to the meeting and discussed possible options to address these concerns;

- Remove the stepping stones.
- Provide a bridge crossing on Ginninderra Creek.
- Provide a low level crossing.
- Do nothing or a minimum of erecting some warning signs.

The meeting agreed that given the role of the Umbagog District Park, the consultation on this matter needed to be wider and cover other parts of West Belconnen.

Roads ACT advised it would extend the consultation by letter drop but also via an online survey to an area covering West Belconnen.

The timing of this consultation would be as soon as possible taking into consideration caretaker protocols.

The outcome from the consultation and a technical assessment of the options with input from representatives of the Ginninderra Creek Catchment Group would be used to brief an incoming Minister on the issue.

**Financial Implications**

While some of the options would require Capital Works funding, at present the consultation is seeking community and technical input only without committing the ACT Government to any course of action.

**Media Impact**

This matter, while a very local issue has attracted a considerable amount of media interest and this is likely to continue.

Author: Tony Gill

Extension: 76588

AGREED/NOT AGREED/NOTED/DISCUSS

Gary Byles ..... 17/10/12



**ACT**  
Government

Territory and Municipal Services

Ref: 2012001454

Date 24 July 2012

To Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

- Director-General
- Deputy Director-General
- Executive Director, Roads and Public Transport Division
- Director, Finance

From Tony Gill, Director Roads ACT

Subject Stepping Stone : Umbagong District Park

### **Purpose**

To brief you on access issues associated with the stepping stones in Umbagong District Park, Latham.

### **Background**

Umbagong District Park was opened in 1993 and forms part of the Ginninderra Creek corridor. There are a number of crossing points of Ginninderra Creek within the park including a footbridge and a series of stepping stones. A copy of a plan showing the layout of the park is included at Attachment A.

### **Issues**

In recent years, concerns have been raised by a number of residents in Latham about the frequent flooding of the stepping stones and the ongoing suitability of the stepping stones for access for various users.

A number of public meetings have been convened with Latham residents in 2011 and an option of constructing a low level bridge was canvassed.

There were mixed views amongst residents about the need for such a bridge and a strong affinity for the existing stepping stones and the need for funding improvements to the Ginninderra Creek catchment rather than the stepping stones.

In response to this, Roads ACT sought views from an access expert (Eric Martin) and a short report was provided.

In summary, the report concluded that while the stepping stones may suit some users, it does discriminate against other users and is a potential risk to ACT Government if a complaint is lodged under the Disability Discrimination Act 2002. A copy of the access report is included at Attachment B.

Roads ACT propose to consult with Latham residents further in August/September on this matter discussing the access report and the options outlined.

COPY

**Consultation**

There have been a number of public meetings in 2011 on this matter. A further meeting is proposed in late August/early September 2012 to discuss the access report.

**Financial**

Any improvements to the existing arrangement would either require funds from a future capital works program or be specifically identified as a project in the Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Program which is funded over a number of years.

**Media**

This matter has attracted considerable community and media attention in 2011. Future public consultations would likely generate similar levels of interest.

**Recommendation**

That you:

- Note the background and issues outlined above; and

**NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS**

- Sign the letter to [redacted] a Latham resident included at Attachment C, acknowledging receipt of her letter and that the issues are being progressed by Territory and Municipal Services Directorate.

**AGREED/NOT AGREED/PLEASE DISCUSS**

Tony Gill  
Tony Gill  
Director  
Roads ACT

24 July 2012

Phone 6207 6588

**Katy Gallagher MLA ..... / /  
AGREED/NOT AGREED/NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS**

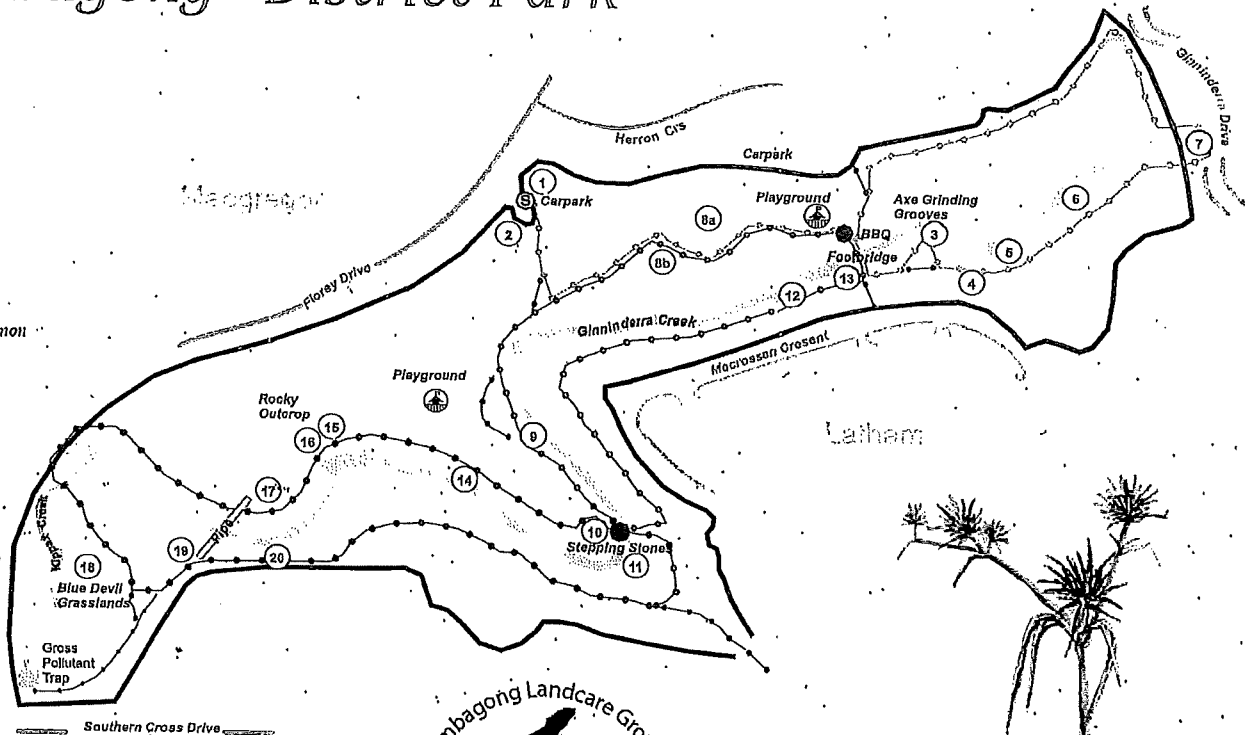
# Umbagog District Park



The scarlet robin, a common visitor in winter



Not to scale



Umbagog Landcare Group  
Caring for the Glinnderra Creek Corridor Latham, A.C.T.



The Blue Devil, a spectacular grassland plant

- Walk 1 Heritage Trail
- - - Walk 2 Creek and Catchment Trail
- Walk 3 Nature Trail
- Other Walking Paths
- Water Course
- Trail Start Points

## Walk 1

### Heritage Trail

Time/Distance 60 mins/2.5 km  
Starting Point Car park off Florey Drive

This walk focuses on the history of land use, featuring a number of Aboriginal axe grinding grooves in the creek bed and some more recent plantings in the park. Poplars reflect European aesthetic but suckers need regular control.

#### Points of Interest:

- Umbagog sign with artistic impression of grooves
- Plantings of native shrubs - Bursaria and Acacia
- Axe grinding grooves and picturesque rock pools
- Comparison site for introduced pasture grasses by the river and native grasses and flowers among the rocks
- ULG bottlebrush planting for erosion control and wildlife
- Quaking poplars planted for landscape enhancement
- Footbridge on Glinnderra Drive

## Walk 2

### Creek and Catchment Trail

Time/Distance 50 mins/1.8 km  
Starting Point Footbridge near Macrossan Cres

This short walk includes sites supporting creek habitat and those which illustrate catchment management issues. Two artificial swamps are located along drainage lines (Stop 8). They are of interest because of the role they play in filtering stormwater and in providing habitat for aquatic plants and animals. Unfortunately, the water in the swamps is often turbid and murky. Dragonflies, clamorous reed warblers and spotted grass frogs are among the swamps' residents.

#### Points of Interest:

- 8 & 8b Artificial swamps providing frog and aquatic habitat
- River bottlebrush on 'chain of ponds' site
- Stepping stones: poplar suckers invade the creek bed
- Stormwater draining from Macrossan Crescent
- Reed bed planting; willows were removed in 2000
- Gablon to protect the creek banks during flooding

## Walk 3

### Nature Trail

Time/Distance 60 mins/2.5 km  
Starting Point Stepping stones

This walk focuses on the fragile ecosystems surviving in the park. These areas are at risk due to the pressures placed upon them by an urban environment;

- overturning stones destroys lizard habitat,
- cats prowling the grasslands kill wildlife and
- invasive weeds threaten native vegetation.

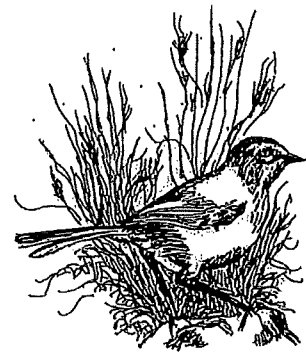
Despite these pressures, a surprising variety of wildlife can be found here:

- watch the little pied cormorant: a waterbird able to use minor rivers, it dives for prey and perches on snags
- listen for the 'crick crick' of the eastern froglet in the swamps
- smell the sweet perfume of the delicate chocolate lily in the grassland
- be startled by the spotted skink on the rocky outcrop.



The Native Water rat, surviving in a degraded habitat

The largest rocky outcrop can be found above the boardwalk (Stop 16). This area has many interesting features, one being the presence of some plants which indicate that the rocky hill may have overhung a wet gully at one time. One such plant is the native raspberry, as well as a number of fern species. This area is home to many reptiles. A large number of introduced weeds are found in the park, some of which are: sweetbriar, ivy, honeysuckle, privet, firethorn, hawthorn and the particularly invasive african love grass.



The white-browed scrub wren is found in thick vegetation along the creek line.

The variety of life found in grasslands is surprising. The largest and least disturbed grassland in the park is adjacent to the south west corner (Stop 18). About 4 hectares in size, it recently received protection as 'open space', in line with the rest of the park. This grassland is known locally as the Blue Devil grassland because of the spectacular blue devil plant that grows here. Its attractive but spiny metallic blue 'flowers' can be seen here from December to January.

Grasslands of this type were once common in the ACT region. Kangaroo grass is dominant, its tall slender seed heads often growing more than 1 metre tall. The smaller but colourful yellow button and the pretty pink convolvulus flower here in summer. Many insects and reptiles inhabit the grassland, while birds of prey, including the black shouldered kite and kestrel, hunt overhead.

#### Points of Interest:

- 14 Creek habitat with stand of sedges
- 15 Creek view from board walk
- 16 Rocky outcrop and reptile habitat
- 17 Planted open woodland
- 18 Blue devil grassland
- 19 Sewer pipe and water rat lookout





The Beehive Group Pty Ltd (Trustee) T/A  
**Eric Martin & Associates**

Ph 02 6260 6396

PO Box 4699 KINGSTON ACT 2804

Suite 10, 68 Jardine Street KINGSTON ACT 2604 AUSTRALIA

Eric Martin Registered Architect: ACT Reg No 376, Vic 5150, NSW 6991, WA 1683, QLD 3391

11Q8

28 November 2011

Roads ACT  
 Locked Bag 2000  
 CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

Attention: Tony Gill  
[Tony.Gill@act.gov.au](mailto:Tony.Gill@act.gov.au)

Dear Tony

### LATHAM UMBAGONG DISTRICT PARK STEPPING STONES

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This report advises on the stepping stones in Umbagong District Park particularly

- Advice on the codes/standards that apply to the external access way.
- Comment on the suitability of the stepping stones and access to them.
- Comment on possible options.

#### 2. CODES AND STANDARDS

Outside buildings and defined properties the National Construction Code (NCC) 2011 Volume 1 Building Code of Australia (BCA) does not strictly apply. However the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1992 applies to all facilities including external facilities such as Umbagong District Park. The Disability (Access to Premises-Buildings) Standard 2010 also does not strictly apply as like NCC 2011 (Vol 1 BCA) it applies to buildings.

However, the best guide as to what will satisfy the DDA and reduce the risk of a complaint under the DDA is to adopt AS1428.1 2009 Design for access and mobility Part 1: General requirements for access – New building work. We therefore recommend that access ways in Umbagong District Park should meet AS1428.1.

#### 3. AUDIT OF EXISTING STEPPING STONES

Refer attached sketch of the area and photographs.

In summary the non conformances are:

- Gradients closer to the creek exceed 1 in 20 (5%) and are therefore too steep
- Some cross falls exceed 1 in 40 (2.5%) and are therefore too steep
- Gravel is not a suitable surface and dirt on other surfaces is also not suitable
- Stepping stones do not provide a continuous access way
- Unevenness of surface with rocks, steps between finishes are hazardous and not access compliant

The stepping stones do not provide a suitable access way and will therefore discriminate against a number of users.

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ACCESS ARCHITECTURE CONSERVATION HERITAGE

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EMA

#### 4. POSSIBLE OPTIONS

Possible options that will meet DDA and provide solutions are:

- 4.1 Remove stepping stones and rely on other crossing points. This means further travel for all users to cross the creek. (Note compliance of path to other crossings has not been assessed)
- 4.2 Provide a bridge over the creek. This could be made access compliant.
- 4.3 Provide a low level crossing with complying paths/ramps to it. This will require some lengthening of paths, construction of ramps and a solid low level crossing. It will not be accessible in flood and high water times.
- 4.4 Do nothing and accept it does not provide access for all. This could lead to complaints under the DDA at which time options etc would be discussed/negotiated/resolved. Signage on accessible routes would inform users better and reduce risks.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

The existing stepping stones may suit some users but does discriminate against other users and is therefore a potential risk to ACT Government of a complaint under the DDA.

There are options available but each has potential difficulties/costs as outlined above.

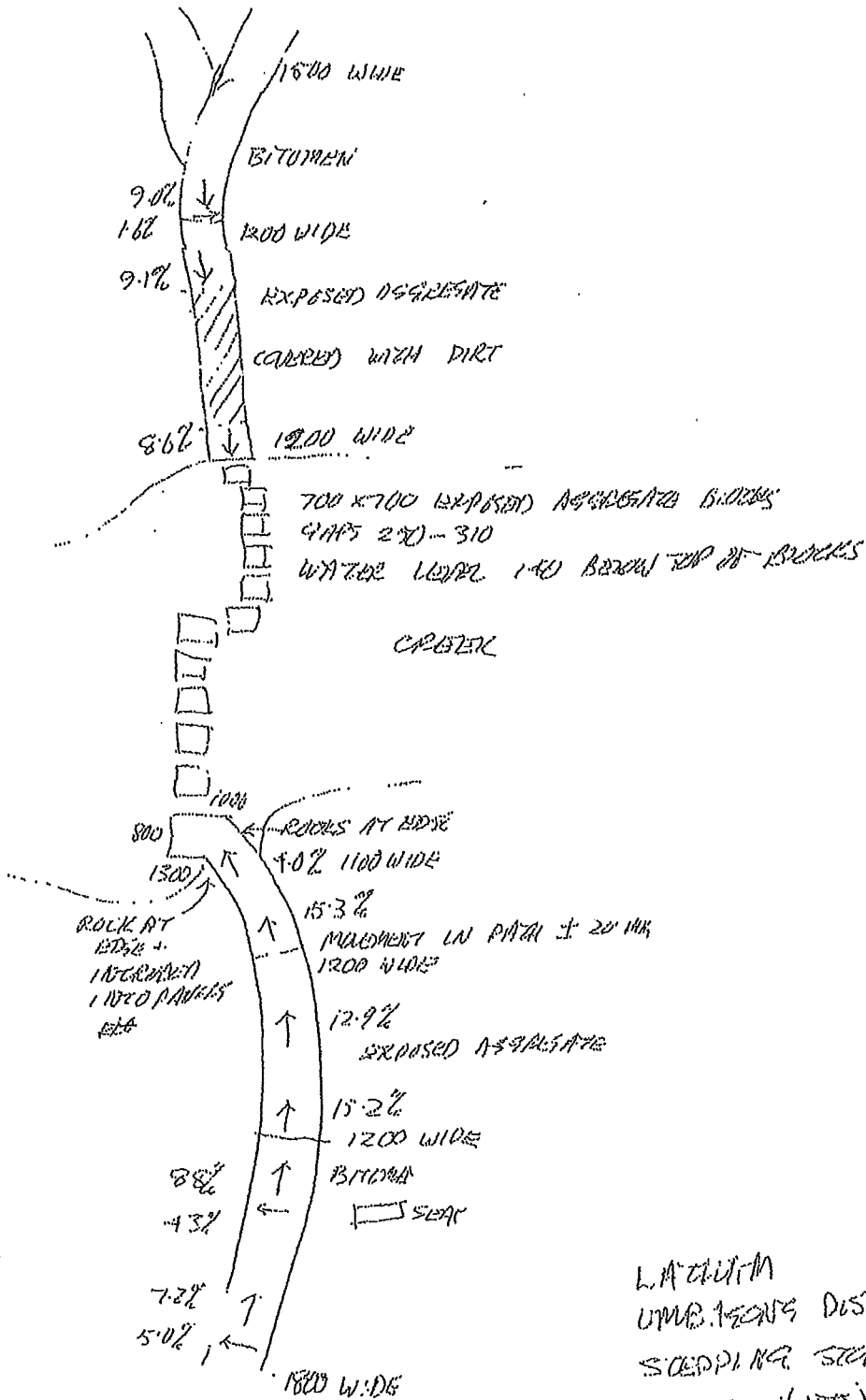
Yours faithfully,



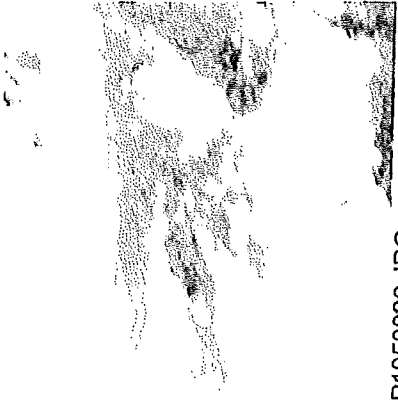
Eric J Martin  
Director

Registered Architect  
ACT378 VIC5150  
NSW6991 WA1683  
QLD3391

Encls: Sketch  
Photographs



L.A. CHUM  
UMBRELLA DISTRICT PARK  
SCEDPING STONES  
AUDIT (LINES)  
PREPARED BY BRIC. MARCO



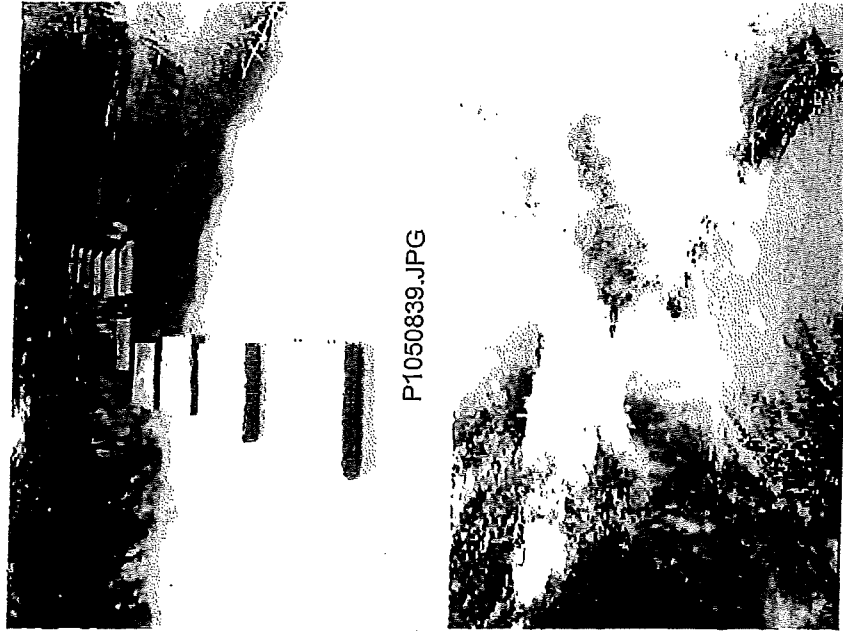
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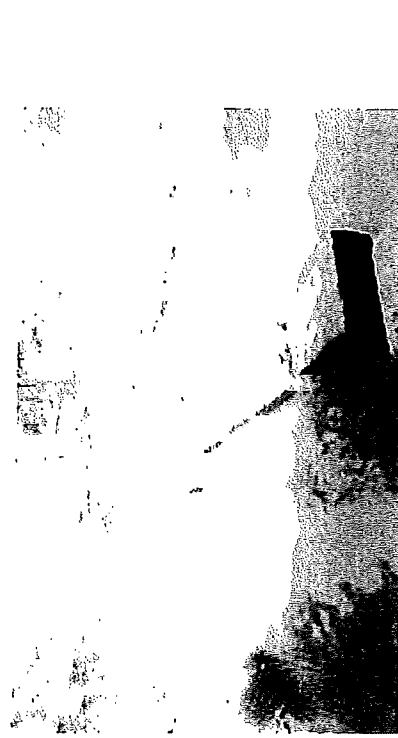
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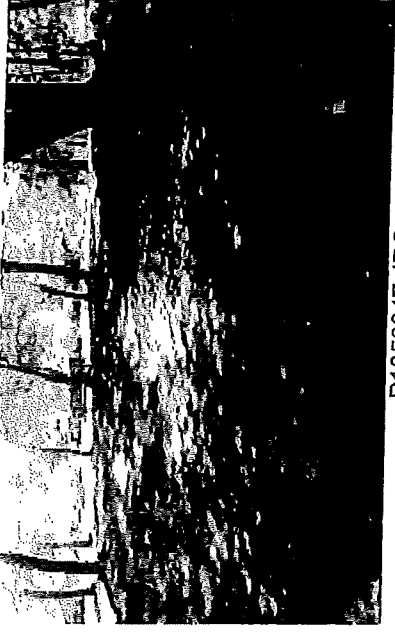
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**Katy Gallagher MLA**

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO



LATHAM ACT 2615

Dear 

Thank you for your letter of 9 July 2012 regarding the stepping stones footpath in Latham.

I understand that Mr Tony Gill, Director of Roads ACT, has written to you on this matter and that Territory and Municipal Services Directorate is arranging a public meeting to discuss the findings of an access report and options to address issues you have raised in your letter.

I have asked Roads ACT to keep me informed on the outcomes of the public meeting.

Thank you for raising this matter to my attention. I trust have been of assistance.






Yours sincerely

Katy Gallagher MLA  
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

# Stepping stone crossing in Umbagong District Park SurveyMonkey

## 1. How often do you currently use the stepping stones in Umbagong District Park?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Daily 	25.6%	43
Once a week 	19.6%	33
More than once a week 	22.0%	37
Monthly 	23.2%	39
Never 	9.5%	16
Other (please specify)		12
answered question		168
skipped question		0

## 2. What do you like about the stepping stone crossing?

	Response Count
	130
answered question	130
skipped question	38

## 3. What are your concerns with the stepping stone crossing?

	Response Count
	124
answered question	124
skipped question	44

**4. What is your preferred option for the future of the stepping stone crossing? Please select from the shortlisted options below:**

	Response Percent	Response Count
Remove the stepping stones (relatively low cost that could be done as part of normal maintenance works)	0.0%	0
Construct a low level crossing (the estimated cost of this option is \$100,000+. This would require capital works funds and would need to be considered in a future works budget bld)	5.3%	7
Construct a bridge (the estimated cost of this option is \$200,000+. This would require capital works funds and would need to be considered in a future works budget bld.)	15.0%	20
No change to current arrangements	79.7%	106
	<b>answered question</b>	<b>133</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>	<b>35</b>

**5. What are the main reasons for your selected option?**

	Response Count
	130
	<b>answered question</b> <b>130</b>
	<b>skipped question</b> <b>38</b>

**6. Do you have any further comments on the shortlisted options?**

	Response Count
	95
answered question	95
skipped question	73



**7. Are you satisfied with this opportunity to provide feedback on the stepping stone crossing?**

	Response Percent	Response Count
Very satisfied	31.8%	42
Satisfied	47.7%	63
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	15.9%	21
Dissatisfied	3.8%	5
Very dissatisfied	0.8%	1
answered question		132
skipped question		36





**8. Demographic information What suburb do you live in?**

	Response Count
	132
answered question	132
skipped question	36



### 9. What is your gender?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Male 	51.9%	68
Female 	48.1%	63
answered question		131
skipped question		37



### 10. What is your age group?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Under 18 	0.8%	1
18-34 	22.3%	29
35-54 	43.8%	57
55 and over 	33.1%	43
answered question		130
skipped question		38



### 11. Do you speak a language other than English at home?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	12.4%	16
No 	87.6%	113
answered question		129
skipped question		39

### 12. Do you identify as a person with a disability?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	11.7%	15
No 	88.3%	113
answered question		128
skipped question		40

### 13. Do you identify as an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	0.8%	1
No 	99.2%	127
answered question		128
skipped question		40

**Page 1, Q1. How often do you currently use the stepping stones in Umbagog District Park?**

1	Not quite monthly - but have used them several times over last couple of years.	Feb 4, 2013 12:01 AM
2	5-6 times per week	Jan 21, 2013 2:44 PM
3	Once or twice a month	Jan 2, 2013 3:58 AM
4	A few times a week	Dec 31, 2012 6:23 PM
5	I did use them once when my children were young and we visited the playground	Dec 10, 2012 6:17 PM
6	Occasionally but frequently in the past 11 years	Dec 3, 2012 5:49 PM
7	Occasional Use	Nov 30, 2012 6:44 PM
8	Occasionally	Nov 30, 2012 5:22 PM
9	6-10 times while I lived at Latham (5 years ago)	Nov 28, 2012 4:04 AM
10	Once or twice per year	Nov 28, 2012 2:44 AM
11	once or twice a year	Nov 27, 2012 8:38 PM
12	When visiting the park	Nov 27, 2012 7:19 PM



**Page 2, Q1. What do you like about the stepping stone crossing?**

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                      |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1  | I like the character of the stepping stones. They look and are a bit fun. Dogs love them. The bridge isn't too far if the stones are flooded.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Feb 7, 2013 9:33 PM  |
| 2  | A crossing at the junction is necessary for access across Ginninderra Creek; it is almost a kilometre to other crossings, be it upstream or downstream; recreational use by all needs to be encouraged.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Feb 7, 2013 7:36 PM  |
| 3  | It provides children and healthy adults an alternative access to playground and Latham North access under dry conditions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Feb 7, 2013 7:14 PM  |
| 4  | They provide an alternate option and route when walking in the area, both in terms of time and distance. The absence of the stepping stones would add an additional 15 to 20 minutes to a circuit which people may not be able to do either in extra distance or extra time. They add variety to the 'sameness' of the bridges. We also see many dogs and their owners enjoying the area as they cross the creek.                                                                                                                                                                                             | Feb 5, 2013 8:25 PM  |
| 5  | has been there for years                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Feb 5, 2013 7:35 PM  |
| 6  | It is unique in form as a crossing facility, it does not adversely affect the vista of the surroundings as a bridge structure would, on the contrary it provides an old world charm facilitating close access to the water over mid-reek span to enable close observation of various life under water.. It seems an optimal blend of function, rustic charm, engagement with nature all with minimal impact with the surroundings. It has been part of the historical fabric of the area and known as descriptive location ("the stepping stone crossing"). It already exists and no expenditure is required. | Feb 5, 2013 5:59 PM  |
| 7  | Low impact on visual aesthetics of the area. Cute and quirky. Makes me feel like a kid again!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Feb 5, 2013 5:27 PM  |
| 8  | They provide a convenient crossing to the Ginninderra creek between Florey drive and the footbridge between Neville pl and Backhouse st.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Feb 4, 2013 10:06 PM |
| 9  | It allows you to cross the creek without having to go all the way around.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Feb 4, 2013 3:13 AM  |
| 10 | It is a nice rustic place that has a very nice feel within the trees. Furthermore, the dog love running on them.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Feb 4, 2013 1:35 AM  |
| 11 | Nice to use stepping stones, and look at the water ... The child in me likes them ;-)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Feb 4, 2013 12:16 AM |
| 12 | They're interesting for all ages - my grandchildren particularly like going down there and it is a great educational experience for them as well. I use the stepping stones on my walk every day - it makes it more interesting!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Feb 3, 2013 10:23 PM |
| 13 | the peaceful ambience of the area. They have been there for long time, and signs notify you of flooding, so up to individual to take heed. Besides the kids we use the crossing just love the area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Feb 3, 2013 8:33 PM  |
| 14 | they are unique and are a make a rare attraction to the park                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Feb 3, 2013 7:15 PM  |
| 15 | History - Went across every day on my way to school. Different sort of crossing to others.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Feb 3, 2013 7:00 PM  |
| 16 | It gives a different more interesting way of interacting with the landscape, reminiscent of more informal country setting which is great for urbanised children to explore. It's also important for us all to remember that not                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Feb 3, 2013 6:00 PM  |

Page 2, Q1. What do you like about the stepping stone crossing?

- everything is available to us all the time ie in times of heavy rainfall access to certain things are restricted and we need to learn/remember to work around the forces of nature. kids and adults plus dogs have fun navigating from one stone to the other with the occasional "accidental" fall into the water. Upstream slightly AND downstream are 24 hr, 7 day a week bridges giving constant access to all for crossing.
- 17 It's natural and beautiful, it's fun for children and adults alike, it's part of the history of Latham and we have people who come visit just to see the stepping stones - when the weather is right it is a beautiful place to cross the creek and enjoy the natural environment. I do not want the stones removed as we love the stones and this would potentially present an even more severe community risk - as a crossing that is used hundreds of times a day and is well known, people would still try and cross the creek or build their own crossing. Feb 3, 2013 4:14 PM
- 18 Ambiance, feeling close to the water and vegetation. Feb 1, 2013 10:32 PM
- 19 For most of the year this is an adequate crossing. It has a simple charm amongst the natural creek vegetation and is a nice place for pause by people walking dogs (dogs often take a bit of a dip) and allows a bit of step-hopping adventure for the kids. Jan 31, 2013 10:04 PM
- 20 They're fun and different plus aesthetically pleasing. They are not a waste of infrastructure. I love the fact that sometimes you can't cross because it's flooded. This reminds me of our connection and reliance on nature. Jan 28, 2013 1:34 PM
- 21 Access to other side of park; interesting for children Jan 28, 2013 3:00 AM
- 22 A local feature that adds to the attractiveness and pleasure derived from my trice daily walks Jan 26, 2013 4:42 PM
- 23 Much more natural looking than a bridge would be. More fun for children who go there looking for tadpoles and to learn a bit about the world around them. Jan 25, 2013 8:54 PM
- 24 Enjoyable, they are actually a feature of the park. It allows people to enjoy a more natural environment within a short distance of the urban environment. Jan 25, 2013 3:08 PM
- 25 A lovely place to cross the creek which I have been using for many years. Jan 24, 2013 4:16 AM
- 26 It is informal, it encourages interaction with the creek. It makes a very pleasant circular walk for my family. Jan 24, 2013 4:06 AM
- 27 Close to nature Jan 23, 2013 4:59 PM
- 28 It enables me when walking to have a choice as to how far I walk from home and back. If the stepping stones are there it is a good 3.5 km walk, if not it would be about a 5.2 km walk, which on some days is not possible. Jan 23, 2013 3:50 PM
- 29 Easy access to the other side of the park Jan 22, 2013 5:26 PM
- 30 It is a nice natural looking crossing. I use it daily. Except when flooded. Even the ducks use it! Jan 22, 2013 1:33 AM
- 31 They are a lovely feature of the park & add an element of fun, they allow us urban dwellers to be closer to nature by keeping us in touch with the weather and local animals. When the water is low we can surmise that there's been a Jan 21, 2013 3:14 PM

**Page 2, Q1. What do you like about the stepping stone crossing?**

- dry spell and we need rain. When the water is high or flooded we know that we've just had a decent amount of rain. Just the other day I and another user were able to admire a turtle fishing for breakfast near the stepping stones. Children get to be kids and can play more safely there (obviously with parental supervision) than other parts of the creek. My four-year-old derives much enjoyment simply crossing the stones back and forth several times each visit. Adults get to feel like kids again. At the public meeting at Latham primary last year it was evident that there was much affection for the stepping stones and many, many users would be disappointed if they were replaced or removed. I myself am very fond of the stepping stones having used them during my morning walks for a good part of 15 years and would be extremely disappointed if they were removed or replaced!
- 32 Nothing - it's unsafe crossing and unfit for prams and bikes Jan 21, 2013 2:16 AM
- 33 It is an attractive site eminently suited as a site for stepping stones as the banks there are low and slope gently to the stream. Jan 20, 2013 4:59 PM
- 34 Visually low-key and fun way to cross the creek Jan 18, 2013 5:31 PM
- 35 I Like the way that people can cross it and that they can go over that area to which they can go to. Jan 17, 2013 9:08 PM
- 36 Closeness to the water. Gently sloping banks so kids and dogs have easy access to the water. Jan 17, 2013 9:00 PM
- 37 unique quaint fun convenient safe Jan 16, 2013 9:11 PM
- 38 Character, dogs can easily swim, love seeing the different water levels Jan 16, 2013 1:21 AM
- 39 unique has a fun nature to them, that gives the area a unique feel. makes you want to cross them. Jan 16, 2013 12:20 AM
- 40 The stepping stones are an area regularly used by children and parents to experience the creek and its associated habitat. This has been an activity of locals for over 30+ years and at the last public meeting strong support was expressed for their retention. They were installed as a supplement to the natural crossing already in place. If removed, I would assume the natural crossing will still be there with its inferred "danger" Jan 15, 2013 10:01 PM
- 41 It brings people closer to water and nature. Children, adults and dogs love the adventure of crossing them. (They are fun) They mimic nature in the same way that you cross a river on rocks. They encourage neighbourhood interaction as people will comment on how high the water level is and how much rain we have had. Jan 14, 2013 9:22 PM
- 42 Good fun, especially for children Jan 13, 2013 3:08 PM
- 43 They have lasted Jan 13, 2013 3:06 PM
- 44 It's fun! We love touching the water and being close enough to see the tadpoles and other small creatures. The stepping stones provide a gauge for the depth of the water and its behaviour. In a relatively unchanging suburban environment, it is exciting to observe the natural events brought about by the weather and the progressing seasons that take place in a particular spot. The children have learnt about safety but not being allowed to cross the stepping stones when they are underwater. Jan 13, 2013 2:14 PM

**Page 2, Q1. What do you like about the stepping stone crossing?**

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                      |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 45 | Its different; makes you stop and look and take note of your surroundings; brings back childhood memories                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Jan 13, 2013 1:03 PM |
| 46 | The whole feel of the setting is idyllic and the stepping stones are central to this feeling. I walk my dog across the stones and it takes me back to another time when life was not so rushed and people spent more time outside than in front of a computer.                                                                                                                                                  | Jan 12, 2013 3:00 PM |
| 47 | I like the fact that the access across this path changes as the rain and the level of the creek rise. It's a bit of a longer walk around if it is flooded but it's not too far. I would like to see it retained. On a side note, the last lot of high winds knocked a tree down at one end of the stepping stones and it is obstructing access.                                                                 | Jan 9, 2013 1:24 PM  |
| 48 | It's a unique part of the Umbagog Reserve and it has a long history in the area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Jan 8, 2013 11:06 PM |
| 49 | Peaceful way of crossing the creek.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Jan 6, 2013 3:51 PM  |
| 50 | I like the stepping stones as they are. I use it regularly when working my dogs. If flooded I use other options to cross the creek.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Jan 6, 2013 12:05 AM |
| 51 | I like that I am able to get close to the creek in a fairly safe environment - other parts of the creek are not so easy to access. I also enjoy that I and my children and now my grandchildren are able to use and play on the stepping stones - they are part of our family history.                                                                                                                          | Jan 4, 2013 3:27 AM  |
| 52 | I look forward to crossing them, to me they are a special little feature of the reserve. They enable you to get much closer to nature without overly intruding on the wild life etc                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Jan 3, 2013 7:14 PM  |
| 53 | Am frequent user of this area for recreational walking. Stones are a cool break in a walk, especially - but not only - in hot weather. They also represent a respite from irresponsible cyclists (who frequently overtake me at 30km/h+) who can't use the crossing unless they dismount first.                                                                                                                 | Jan 2, 2013 12:40 PM |
| 54 | Convenient place to cross the creek when on a walk.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Jan 2, 2013 4:11 AM  |
| 55 | It's extremely convenient because of the distance to the next nearest crossing of the creek.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Jan 2, 2013 3:36 AM  |
| 56 | It is a quaint crossing and easy to use.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Jan 1, 2013 10:58 PM |
| 57 | I love that it's stepping stones, that it provides a platform which is more interactive with the creek, it's community history, it's fascinating to use a judge for how full the creek is. It's also a place where people often sit for a moment, children play with the edge of the water under supervision and dogs have a drink. It's great to come across this on during the days exercise and meet people. | Jan 1, 2013 9:07 PM  |
| 58 | The stepping stones are a nice feature. Different to all the other bridges etc in the area. It is nice to step across and watch the ducks on the water and observe the tadpoles in the creek.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Dec 31, 2012 6:36 PM |
| 59 | Its natural aspects. That my dog can get into the water whilst I can remain beside him on a stepping stone.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Dec 29, 2012 3:09 PM |
| 60 | It is a nice contrast to walking/ riding over the other bridges. It provides the                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Dec 29, 2012 3:35 AM |

Page 2, Q1. What do you like about the stepping stone crossing?

children with a fun gross motor challenge. You can get very close to the deeper water with out getting wet when they are not submerged. When they are just under water, we take our shoes off to cross and it is a nice sensory experience. The children are excited to predict after rain whether they will be under water or not. Where else are there stepping stones across a creek/ river in Canberra?

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                       |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 61 | Location                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Dec 28, 2012 1:40 PM  |
| 62 | It's fun to walk across. My dog enjoys jumping on them.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Dec 23, 2012 11:56 PM |
| 63 | It's natural. It's picturesque. It brings you down to the level of the river so you cross the water at the water's height and feel more part of the creek than hanging over a railing from a height. You can't always cross there so it reminds you of the supremacy of nature and how you have to fit in with it and not dominate it. The unpredictability is part of its charm. It's playful and reminds you of the magic of childhood when you cross it. Kids love it - mine did when they were little and still do as teens. Our dog thinks it's a great game to cross them. It's a 'hotspot' to find birds and one year there were flycatchers, orioles and noisy friar birds all nesting very close to them. To me the stepping stones are a highlight of the whole park. Replace them with a bridge and I don't think I'll want to visit the park. | Dec 23, 2012 11:38 PM |
| 64 | They are fun for my kids. They don't intrude too much on the look of the creek.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Dec 23, 2012 5:22 PM  |
| 65 | The stepping stones are an unusual feature that fit well with the landscape. They are fun for children and families. I visit there with my grandson who likes the chance to get closer to the water and explore the plant and animal life in the creek. There is no other point along the creek that is safe for this purpose.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Dec 23, 2012 2:44 PM  |
| 66 | I like the stepping stones because they are a feature of the park that both my children and Grand children have used. It's great to have the opportunity to touch and experience the creek environment- looking for tadpoles, frogs, water rats.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Dec 23, 2012 2:34 PM  |
| 67 | Lovely place for our dog to play in the water as we complete a circuit of the park for exercise.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Dec 22, 2012 8:50 PM  |
| 68 | Provides more options for walks around the creek.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Dec 18, 2012 3:19 PM  |
| 69 | They are a clever and well thought out low cost option to cross the creek at that point. It adds to the enjoyment to cross "through" the water rather than over it. The stones fit in well with the environment and contribute in a unique manner to the very pleasant walk that already has safe bridges and pathways for those who can't negotiate this ancient method of traversing the creek. They are large and rough and as safe as stepping stones can be, there is no need to remove them. It doesn't matter if they can't be used in all weather conditions, that's a part of their intrinsic charm.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Dec 17, 2012 3:56 AM  |
| 70 | The ability to cross the creek without having to use the Florey drive bridge or the bridge further down, off Macrossan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Dec 16, 2012 6:33 PM  |
| 71 | Its unique. Not only that but it is a trademark for the aboriginal area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Dec 16, 2012 3:08 PM  |
| 72 | the fun element of them                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Dec 15, 2012 9:07 PM  |

**Page 2, Q1. What do you like about the stepping stone crossing?**

73	Natural-looking area for crossing the Creek	Dec 14, 2012 7:15 PM
74	It is a nice place to cross the creek when walking to the shops.	Dec 14, 2012 2:16 AM
75	They're fun for kids and a pleasant alternative to a bridge. Dogs also love playing and swimming around them.	Dec 12, 2012 7:16 PM
76	It's quirky and a chance to really use Ginninderra Creek.	Dec 11, 2012 9:46 PM
77	It's a fun way to cross the creek. It adds variety to a walk.	Dec 11, 2012 9:28 PM
78	Rustic and provides a relatively safe crossing point when the water level is low for persons without a disability or people with prams, bikes etc	Dec 10, 2012 6:29 PM
79	It's easy to cross to the other side and it's beautiful. If it's flooded, I use another route.	Dec 10, 2012 1:28 PM
80	It is fun to cross especially with my two dogs	Dec 9, 2012 8:31 PM
81	It looks scenic, makes you feel part of the environment.	Dec 9, 2012 5:37 PM
82	I love it. I grew up in Macgregor and as a child it was a magical place for me. Now that I am a mother I take my daughter there. Now that the willows are gone, it is one of the only places you can get up close to the water.	Dec 8, 2012 1:35 PM
83	Great adventure for children - including the uncertainty when the creek is in flood. Also it is different than a simple crossing and in line with the minimal development of the rest of the park.	Dec 7, 2012 6:04 PM
84	It looks pretty	Dec 7, 2012 12:04 PM
85	It reminds me of when I was a kid.	Dec 7, 2012 12:14 AM
86	They are an interesting and unique outdoor feature in Canberra, and have great nostalgic value for me, having used them regularly going to school in the 90s.	Dec 6, 2012 10:47 PM
87	they are natural and fit in with the environment better than a bridge. They provide a intimate closeness when crossing the creek especially with the dog leg	Dec 6, 2012 12:52 PM
88	Their quaintness/feature of the area. Fun challenge physically and mentally for able bodied adults & children and dogs when creek is at normal/safe levels.	Dec 5, 2012 10:24 PM
89	It allows immediate access to the water's edge and is a fun way to cross the creek	Dec 5, 2012 4:36 PM
90	There an awesome way to cross the creek	Dec 4, 2012 1:04 PM
91	They provide another crossing for the creek and one that was low cost and little maintenance. The fact that the crossing is low at creek level is great for when I walk with the grandchildren. ie. they can get close to the water and see what is happening in the creek.	Dec 4, 2012 12:33 AM
92	Its uniqueness and the way it fits in with the setting	Dec 4, 2012 12:10 AM
93	Great for the dogs to swim in. Always looks different. Great for the kids to	Dec 3, 2012 11:11 PM

Page 2, Q1. What do you like about the stepping stone crossing?

	explore. It has character & is great for the kids to explore & learn about the changing waters in the area. Eg It always looks different :-) Primarily Keeps motor bike out of that section of the park!!!	
94	I don't	Dec 3, 2012 10:18 PM
95	It is a heritage site in that thousands of people over the years have used them and accepted the challenges the crossing presents. People are able to see the natural forces of nature in action. They are also able to use their brains to gauge whether it is safe for them to cross or whether to choose an alternative route.	Dec 3, 2012 6:00 PM
96	Like a lot of Latham residents, I have a soft spot for the stepping stones and have spent a lot of time down their with my daughter. It is a very popular place with children as the stones enable easy access to the water. The children enjoy hopping across the creek. My daughter especially relates to the stepping stones through the childrens movie "Jungle Book".	Dec 3, 2012 5:38 PM
97	I love the charm of them. I can't wait til my son is big enough to go hopping over them with me! We moved to Latham just near the creek so our children would have green areas to play and the stepping stones are part of that child like charm of the area. Please leave them be!	Dec 3, 2012 3:29 PM
98	It's natural and lovely to see original structure like those in old days	Dec 3, 2012 1:49 PM
99	Everything! It's a nice change from normal bridge, makes the walk interesting, gives a unique experience, my pets love it, visitors think its really quaint and interesting and it is perfectly safe.	Dec 3, 2012 12:21 AM
100	Aesthetically pleasing. Something different.	Dec 1, 2012 5:26 PM
101	Good for walking dog and letting swim	Dec 1, 2012 3:52 PM
102	Natural selection	Dec 1, 2012 1:35 PM
103	something different and fun	Dec 1, 2012 3:09 AM
104	It's a great alternative, there are regular bridges not that far away	Dec 1, 2012 2:22 AM
105	Interesting and charming. While being functional, it adds character.	Nov 30, 2012 5:25 PM
106	Different and exciting	Nov 30, 2012 4:30 PM
107	they are pretty and a change from other bridges	Nov 30, 2012 3:44 PM
108	Its there	Nov 30, 2012 11:07 AM
109	Being able to cross the creek down at water level, being able to stop mid-stream, plus while I don't know how long that crossing has been there (its been there longer than I have been in Canberra 20+ years as far as I know) it is a part of the park and its environment and history	Nov 29, 2012 2:17 PM
110	Love it! Good fun! My dogs love it...navigating the stones as well as a little swim.	Nov 29, 2012 12:55 PM
111	People enjoy them	Nov 29, 2012 11:16 AM
112	I use the stones as a short cut when cycling towards Belconnen or Civic. It is	Nov 29, 2012 3:10 AM

## Page 2, Q1. What do you like about the stepping stone crossing?

- convenient and has character.
- |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 113 | The stepping stones are much more fun than a standard bridge crossing, especially for children. They are unique and fit well with the setting (lots of vegetation, overhanging trees and a more natural environment), given that other crossings along the creek and around the Belconnen area are more 'standard' type crossings. | Nov 28, 2012 4:58 PM  |
| 114 | It is quaint and unique                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Nov 28, 2012 4:22 PM  |
| 115 | They create a nice flow for the water! my 2yr old son likes making boats and racing them between the stones                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Nov 28, 2012 3:23 PM  |
| 116 | I like that they are unusual and are not the normal way to cross a creek                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Nov 28, 2012 1:01 PM  |
| 117 | Adds a sense of charm to the creek.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Nov 28, 2012 3:07 AM  |
| 118 | Bit of an adventure, out of the normal boring bridge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Nov 28, 2012 2:48 AM  |
| 119 | The site is very tranquil and blends in harmoniously with the local area. It provides a practical means to cross the creek, and is also a nice feature of the park.                                                                                                                                                                | Nov 28, 2012 12:56 AM |
| 120 | It adds to the character of the "Bush Capital"                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Nov 27, 2012 11:27 PM |
| 121 | The stone make the crossing a special place to explore and engage with the water and environment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Nov 27, 2012 10:24 PM |
| 122 | An attractive feature in a nice part of the district park, that provides a quick option to reduce walk length.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Nov 27, 2012 9:00 PM  |
| 123 | that it is a stepping stone crossing, a rarity, a novelty while still fairly safe                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Nov 27, 2012 8:42 PM  |
| 124 | its unique                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Nov 27, 2012 7:35 PM  |
| 125 | It is an unusual and simple way to get across the creek. Also, it looks a lot better than some large, garishly painted bridge that could go in.                                                                                                                                                                                    | Nov 27, 2012 7:29 PM  |
| 126 | It adds character to the creek and park.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Nov 27, 2012 6:16 PM  |
| 127 | the history and the proximity to the flow of water                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Nov 27, 2012 5:44 PM  |
| 128 | It's fun and has been there since I was a child.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Nov 27, 2012 5:06 PM  |
| 129 | They're one of the last things remaining that's not been sanitised and removed. A little bit of our history from a time when every decision didn't have to go through a lawyer.                                                                                                                                                    | Nov 27, 2012 4:43 PM  |
| 130 | They are a unique feature of the park that have the potential to captivate and entertain children. Anything that stimulates children's imaginations is precious and important in this age of superficiality and sterilisation.                                                                                                     | Nov 27, 2012 4:33 PM  |



## Page 2, Q2. What are your concerns with the stepping stone crossing?

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                      |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1  | No concerns                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Feb 7, 2013 9:33 PM  |
| 2  | (1) Unsafe for those with a leg disability or poor balance; (2) Also unsafe for the very young or elderly, who may lose their balance; (3) Unusable for crossing with prams; (4) Usable for crossing when covered with waters of creek after rain.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Feb 7, 2013 7:36 PM  |
| 3  | They are not safe for older, elderly, part disabled                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Feb 7, 2013 7:14 PM  |
| 4  | We have no concerns about the stones - they are perfectly adequate. Given the number of times when they are inaccessible, due to flooding, is very small and they have not been inaccessible for long, we consider that changes aren't required. For instance, with the recent storms, the stones were only inaccessible for about 2 days which people could live with. However, permanent removal would place a much greater imposition on enjoyment of the area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Feb 5, 2013 8:25 PM  |
| 5  | can be easily flooded                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Feb 5, 2013 7:35 PM  |
| 6  | Nil. In the event of high water level, existing alternative creek crossing points already exist both up stream and down stream.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Feb 5, 2013 5:59 PM  |
| 7  | Nil                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Feb 5, 2013 5:27 PM  |
| 8  | They are prone to flooding with the smallest bit of rain last year they would have been inundated for approximately 1/4 of the year                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Feb 4, 2013 10:06 PM |
| 9  | No concerns.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Feb 4, 2013 3:13 AM  |
| 10 | None.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Feb 4, 2013 1:35 AM  |
| 11 | None personally, but I can see a problem for those with limited mobility, or when the water is over them and there is a long detour to cross the creek.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Feb 4, 2013 12:16 AM |
| 12 | No concerns.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Feb 3, 2013 10:23 PM |
| 13 | I dont really have any concerns. I have lived in Latham for 28 years and no drownings, accidents that I have noticed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Feb 3, 2013 8:33 PM  |
| 14 | That they will be removed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Feb 3, 2013 7:15 PM  |
| 15 | nil concern                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Feb 3, 2013 7:00 PM  |
| 16 | Nil.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Feb 3, 2013 6:00 PM  |
| 17 | Primarily my concerns relate to the safety of the stones for some users and the lack of access at times - we live in one of the houses closest to the stone crossing and often have older or disabled visitors who want to go for a walk but can't make the 800 metres to the next bridge and have tried crossing the stones. One of these badly damaged her leg and came close to hitting a vein and had to go to the Doctors who advised that the situation could have been very serious had she hit the vein and she had to stay in bed for five days. She is an able bodied walker but the stones are uneven in parts and she thought she could cross, but stumbled and came down very badly on her shin. She is from Tasmania and asked why there wasn't a bridge there because she would have taken the bridge and watched everyone else enjoy the stones. My husband and I want to start a family and taking a pram or young child across the stepping stones is not safe or practical - our | Feb 3, 2013 4:14 PM  |

**Page 2, Q2. What are your concerns with the stepping stone crossing?**

- neighbours have young children and can't use the stones and therefore cannot easily access the park on the other side or complete the walking loop. It becomes a very long round trip for us when the stones are flooded or we have people with us who cannot cross them but who also cannot walk the 800 metres to the next bridge - we walk the loop across the stones every day and when we can't use them we are prevented from having full access to the walking trails and reserve. The stones this year and last have been regularly flooded thus preventing us crossing the creek, and I have seen numerous people still cross the stones in flooded water, including the elderly, which presents a significant community health risk. I do not want the stones removed as they are a lovely component of the reserve and there are nearly always people crossing them and enjoying them, but I do not understand why it is so difficult to build a bridge adjacent to the stones to keep all community members happy, and safe. In my opinion, it is negligent of the local government to not act in response to community safety concerns and erect a bridge. It would be more negligent to remove the stepping stones as people will continue to try and cross the river or erect their own crossing.
- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                       |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 18 | Impassable for pedestrians (of any age) with balance and stride problems. Problems in the rare events of high water flow, but higher level bridges exist both up and down creek in comfortable walking distance.                                                                             | Jan 31, 2013 10:04 PM |
| 19 | None, they are fantastic, the kids love playing there.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Jan 28, 2013 1:34 PM  |
| 20 | Floods regularly...they are quite low relative to common creek levels                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Jan 28, 2013 3:00 AM  |
| 21 | I don't really have any. I accept that occasional flooding may (briefly) be a minor inconvenience to some people, but I do not accept that they are a significant safety hazard. The current signs adequately address this issue.                                                            | Jan 26, 2013 4:42 PM  |
| 22 | The suggested bridge, as I understand it, will still be flooded if we have heavy rain which seems to me to make the very expensive construction of a bridge a pointless waste of money. Money which could be spent repairing and extending the walking/cycle paths to everybody's advantage. | Jan 25, 2013 8:54 PM  |
| 23 | I could see how there are difficulties with crossing the creek during raised creek levels and for people with prams, mobility scooters and so on.                                                                                                                                            | Jan 25, 2013 3:08 PM  |
| 24 | Hazardous when water levels have risen and impassable for many days during a wet year.                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Jan 24, 2013 4:16 AM  |
| 25 | In a wet season there are many days when the stepping stones cannot be crossed safely. One of the stones has subsided which adds to the danger when the other stones are just uncovered.                                                                                                     | Jan 24, 2013 4:06 AM  |
| 26 | Nil                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Jan 23, 2013 4:59 PM  |
| 27 | I don't have concerns, however I don't want the ability to cross at that point eliminated altogether                                                                                                                                                                                         | Jan 23, 2013 3:50 PM  |
| 28 | No major concerns - warning signs sufficient and residents that use regularly should be aware of flooding at times                                                                                                                                                                           | Jan 22, 2013 5:26 PM  |
| 29 | When flooded unable to cross. Use alternate route. No real inconvenience.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Jan 22, 2013 1:33 AM  |
| 30 | I have no concerns regarding the stepping stones, the current signage is sufficient for users to take care. My understanding is one user was knocked over by a dog while crossing the stones and now incorrectly blames the                                                                  | Jan 21, 2013 3:14 PM  |

**Page 2, Q2. What are your concerns with the stepping stone crossing?**

	stones. She could just as easily have been knocked over by the same dog on the path a few metres either side. It would be such a shame that one person's small accident results in the removal of pleasure and enjoyment of perhaps thousands of stepping stone users!	
31	Not suitable for bike, prams or when rains. It's often covered in sand and currently a fallen tree has blocked path for more than two weeks.	Jan 21, 2013 2:16 AM
32	None , except one of the stones is slightly lower than the others.	Jan 20, 2013 4:59 PM
33	Sometimes they are under water.	Jan 18, 2013 5:31 PM
34	That it might stop the seniors going to where ever they are going to and tnd they might stop what they are doing.	Jan 17, 2013 9:08 PM
35	flooding and therefore no access across the creek.	Jan 17, 2013 9:00 PM
36	N/a	Jan 16, 2013 9:11 PM
37	Nil	Jan 16, 2013 1:21 AM
38	the water around the rocks are full of loose rocks just under the surface that could be removed and blocked somehow. this would mean that when you do step off the block you doing risk twisting your ankle	Jan 16, 2013 12:20 AM
39	I do not use them currently for personal physical reasons, but that it not a reason to remove them. "People who find them difficult at some times have every chance to walk along the creek on either side and use the bridges on Florey drive and further along the creek.	Jan 15, 2013 10:01 PM
40	My concern is that the stepping stones may be removed and I would like them to stay.	Jan 14, 2013 9:22 PM
41	Unsafe for elderly people, limite disabled access, often covered when the creek is in flood, people on prams can't get across, hard to get across with a walking stick.	Jan 13, 2013 3:08 PM
42	The flooding Very bad disabled access	Jan 13, 2013 3:06 PM
43	I understand that people can fall (our daughter did once!) but I'm really not concerned about it. If people are worried about the safety aspect, I feel they should just not cross the creek there.	Jan 13, 2013 2:14 PM
44	don't have any. If its been raining a lot I take another route, if there is the possiblilty of the stones being covered I decide before hand if I want to take the chance and take another route; if I get there and unexpectedly the stones are covered I walk back the way I came. No stress. but it makes me more aware of the weather	Jan 13, 2013 1:03 PM
45	They would be difficult for someone who was a little unsteady on their feet to cross the stones.	Jan 9, 2013 1:24 PM
46	There could be better maintenance.	Jan 8, 2013 11:06 PM
47	Closed in wet weather. Alternative routes are much longer.	Jan 6, 2013 3:51 PM
48	Nil	Jan 6, 2013 12:05 AM

**Page 2, Q2. What are your concerns with the stepping stone crossing?**

49	I have the same concerns as using/being any where else in Umbagog district park - that is, one should use common sense at all times and be careful in a bush setting.	Jan 4, 2013 3:27 AM
50	I don't have any. I don't see it as a major inconvenience to change my route on the few occasions the stones are covered.	Jan 3, 2013 7:14 PM
51	A bit low after rain - would like to see them raised. One of the stones is lower than the rest and prevents usage after rain (although I frequently get one foot wet in order to use them).	Jan 2, 2013 12:40 PM
52	None. If it's flooded there is a bridge not that far away.	Jan 2, 2013 4:11 AM
53	A crossing at that juncture is needed. A bridge would be better but the stones should stay.	Jan 2, 2013 3:36 AM
54	I have no concerns over the crossing.	Jan 1, 2013 10:58 PM
55	NIL.	Jan 1, 2013 9:07 PM
56	None. If they flood I can walk the long way around either towards Kippax, or back to play park towards Charnwood and cross at bridge there.	Dec 31, 2012 6:36 PM
57	I want to keep it. It stops motorcycles and other fast moving vehicles racing through the area. They can't get over the stones and have to walk across quietly or take another route.	Dec 29, 2012 3:09 PM
58	They may not provide access across for all users.	Dec 29, 2012 3:35 AM
59	The tree that is across it so it can't be used	Dec 28, 2012 1:40 PM
60	You can't get across after heavy rain, but there are always other routes you can take.	Dec 23, 2012 11:56 PM
61	I have no concerns. The stepping stones are very safely sized and spaced. One of them is slightly lower than the others - this could be rectified if need be though it's never worried me personally. I've never seen anyone behave foolishly or unsafely crossing the stepping stones and I've never seen anyone slip or fall in. This is over the course of more than sixteen years of regularly visiting the park.	Dec 23, 2012 11:38 PM
62	I have no concerns with the crossing. When it is flooded you just don't use it!	Dec 23, 2012 5:22 PM
63	The increase in silting that has led to flooding of the crossing after heavy rainfall.	Dec 23, 2012 2:44 PM
64	I am concerned that children in the future will not have the opportunities to experience these stepping stones.	Dec 23, 2012 2:34 PM
65	Would be good to have an additional bridge available for when the stones are flooded (but we don't want the stones removed since they are so lovely to walk over), and I'm not sure they are flooded enough to justify a new bridge (in addition to the existing bridge).	Dec 22, 2012 8:50 PM
66	No serious concerns. Common sense needs to be used after heavy rain, but otherwise the stepping stones are quite satisfactory.	Dec 18, 2012 3:19 PM
67	I am concerned that we will be denied this delightful aspect of an enjoyable	Dec 17, 2012 3:56 AM

## Page 2, Q2. What are your concerns with the stepping stone crossing?

	walking track if the stones are removed.	
68	Safety, especially for older people. Stones are often underwater or wet and slippery.	Dec 16, 2012 6:33 PM
69	None. There is a bridge further up.	Dec 16, 2012 3:08 PM
70	none	Dec 15, 2012 9:07 PM
71	I have no concerns about the crossing.	Dec 14, 2012 7:15 PM
72	It gets blocked off when the creek is up and it's not very safe especially when the dog darts off to chase something while on lead.	Dec 14, 2012 2:16 AM
73	None. If they're flooded, people can just walk a different way. It adds to their charm, being unpredictable.	Dec 12, 2012 7:16 PM
74	The surface of the stepping stones are slippery - but intelligent individuals can conduct their own risk analysis re. whether to cross.	Dec 11, 2012 9:46 PM
75	Frankly I'm OK with it as it is. I guess I'd like for it to be checked by experts every so often to make sure it is safe. I don't rely on it in order to get to the bus or the like. It is purely recreational for me.	Dec 11, 2012 9:28 PM
76	The stepping stones do not provide safe and adequate access for persons with a disability or with prams or with kids on bikes etc to cross the creek. Whilst there is a foot bridge further upstream and the Florey Dr road bridge they are too far out of the way for people in south Latham who may want to access the children's play equipment.	Dec 10, 2012 6:29 PM
77	I have seen people crossing with prams and bikes, which could be dangerous.	Dec 10, 2012 1:28 PM
78	Not much especially when the creek is high and it is unusable I think it is dangerous if someone slipped and fell into the water.	Dec 9, 2012 8:31 PM
79	I have none, if you use common sense then there is no cause for concern	Dec 9, 2012 5:37 PM
80	None. When it rains you can walk around the long way, or cross at the Latham park.	Dec 8, 2012 1:35 PM
81	The second last stone on the Macgregor side is lower than the others and often that stone is the. Only one stopping us get across after rain	Dec 7, 2012 12:04 PM
82	None at all.	Dec 7, 2012 12:14 AM
83	None	Dec 6, 2012 10:47 PM
84	None! The dog leg stops stupid people riding across them. My family of two adults, two children and two dogs has loved them. They are part of our heritage. Occasionally a young child topples off - so what no harm done - just a part of life. Leave them be. Let it be!	Dec 6, 2012 12:52 PM
85	When the stones are flooded it requires quite a long extra walk to the nearest crossing in order to complete a walking circuit. A person with a physical limitation or in a wheelchair isn't able to cross here	Dec 5, 2012 10:24 PM
86	I have no concerns.	Dec 5, 2012 4:36 PM

## Page 2, Q2. What are your concerns with the stepping stone crossing?

87	Don't remove them	Dec 4, 2012 1:04 PM
88	My only concern is that it is a bit difficult to get across the stepping stones with a pram, but with a little manhandling it is possible	Dec 4, 2012 12:33 AM
89	I don't mind them as they are however if they were to be changed, the stones could be placed in a straight line.	Dec 3, 2012 11:11 PM
90	They seem to be sinking and moving after every big wet.	Dec 3, 2012 10:18 PM
91	My concerns are that a few people will be able to exert sufficient pressure for the stones to be removed at a time when there is far too unhealthy much risk aversion in modern lives.	Dec 3, 2012 6:00 PM
92	None really. In flood, you can't cross it but then there are bridges not far either side.	Dec 3, 2012 5:38 PM
93	I understand that they get covered when they flood but really it is quite rarely that the creek floods that high. Especially as we had a very wet summer last year which is out of the norm. They are easy to cross normally, and should I want to cross there when they are flooded I would simply walk further up the path and use a bridge. Sometimes changing everything to please the 'worryers' is not the best solution.	Dec 3, 2012 3:29 PM
94	none	Dec 3, 2012 1:49 PM
95	That it might be removed	Dec 3, 2012 12:21 AM
96	None	Dec 1, 2012 5:26 PM
97	Our useless govt will meddle with them	Dec 1, 2012 1:35 PM
98	none - just that we might lose them	Dec 1, 2012 3:09 AM
99	None	Dec 1, 2012 2:22 AM
100	None, really. then it floods, there are bridges nearby.	Nov 30, 2012 5:25 PM
101	None	Nov 30, 2012 4:30 PM
102	None	Nov 30, 2012 3:44 PM
103	Nil	Nov 30, 2012 11:07 AM
104	Only the same as with any open area which people can access which is prone to occasional flooding - ie that people need to take care and act rationally	Nov 29, 2012 2:17 PM
105	Nil	Nov 29, 2012 12:55 PM
106	That they'll be tampered with	Nov 29, 2012 11:16 AM
107	None. When the creek is flooded I use the bridge.	Nov 29, 2012 3:10 AM
108	Absolutely none.	Nov 28, 2012 4:22 PM
109	No concerns	Nov 28, 2012 3:23 PM

**Page 2, Q2. What are your concerns with the stepping stone crossing?**

110	I don't have any	Nov 28, 2012 1:01 PM
111	None.	Nov 28, 2012 3:07 AM
112	None	Nov 28, 2012 2:48 AM
113	None.	Nov 28, 2012 12:56 AM
114	None	Nov 27, 2012 11:27 PM
115	That the government will remove them.	Nov 27, 2012 10:24 PM
116	If people lack common sense and try to cross during high flow events serious problems could result.	Nov 27, 2012 9:00 PM
117	none	Nov 27, 2012 8:42 PM
118	nil	Nov 27, 2012 7:35 PM
119	Only interfering politicians and bureaucrats wanting to implement a cotton wool wrapped nanny state & pandering to the whims of a minority who want to remove the stones! If wet - don't use it. Also, any complaints about the facility should be anonymised and posted in *public* forums. This way everyone can see what the complaints (if any) there are about the stones.	Nov 27, 2012 7:29 PM
120	None	Nov 27, 2012 6:16 PM
121	nil, they are a wonderful adornment to the area	Nov 27, 2012 5:44 PM
122	None	Nov 27, 2012 5:06 PM
123	None	Nov 27, 2012 4:43 PM
124	That they would be removed or replaced at great social cost to the community and great financial cost to the tax payer simply out of fear.	Nov 27, 2012 4:33 PM



## Page 2, Q4. What are the main reasons for your selected option?

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                      |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1  | The stones are attractive, useful and closer to nature. Leave them!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Feb 7, 2013 9:33 PM  |
| 2  | Need to construct a bridge as well as maintaining stepping stones; it is not a matter of either/or, we need both.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Feb 7, 2013 7:36 PM  |
| 3  | The stepping stones provide recreation for children to play when creek is low under supervision.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Feb 7, 2013 7:14 PM  |
| 4  | The stepping stones are perfectly adequate and satisfy their purpose. Removal of the stepping stones would severely limit the options for enjoying the area in terms of walking time and distance. It is good to be able to walk in a natural environment, rather than pounding the suburban streets when time constraints are an issue. The stepping stones provide this option.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Feb 5, 2013 8:25 PM  |
| 5  | to make an all weather crossing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Feb 5, 2013 7:35 PM  |
| 6  | The existing facility is adequate and unique that provides a very welcome diversity to the alternative traditional bridge structure which do not blend well with reserve environments. The funds associated with construction of an alternative facility (\$100,000 or \$200,000) could be much better spent on for worthwhile facilities elsewhere. This stepping stone crossing has been a functional, loved and unique feature of the area for a very long time. I see no need to have it upgraded- particularly given the costs involved from valuable and scarce funding. The fact is there are alternative bridge crossing points in both directions that provide adequate existing alternatives at no cost. | Feb 5, 2013 5:59 PM  |
| 7  | There are already alternate crossings available, people just need to walk a little further. Signage could point out the benefits of the extra 500 or so metres they would have to walk to get to the bridge in fitness terms.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Feb 5, 2013 5:27 PM  |
| 8  | I am looking for a solution that provides a safe passage across the creek within 50m of the stepping stones that does not flood and can be used by all possible traffic, eg. the elderly, parents with prams and cyclists                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Feb 4, 2013 10:06 PM |
| 9  | It works, don't fix it.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Feb 4, 2013 3:13 AM  |
| 10 | The current option is perfectly adequate, why waste money that would be more useful elsewhere. They cannot be passed at high water, but this is part of the interest of the place (not always the same).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Feb 4, 2013 1:35 AM  |
| 11 | Not really sure which is best option - I don't want the stepping stones removed - why take away the fun?! ... I am fine with the idea of building a crossing or bridge nearby, if there is a need for it. (but would not like to see the stepping stones replaced by it, if crossing/bridge is wanted/needed - surely one can be built nearby, but not the exact same place?)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Feb 4, 2013 12:16 AM |
| 12 | - Used the stepping stones for 30 years with dogs and grandchildren and they have never been a problem.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Feb 3, 2013 10:23 PM |
| 13 | I think it is good fortune the stepping stones are where they are. If flooding one can always walk to the other bridge, the regular users of the bridge are aware of this higher bridge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Feb 3, 2013 8:33 PM  |
| 14 | Nearby presence of a crossing bridge. Adequate existing signage regarding location of bridge and safety precautions. Environmental disruption and damage as a result of all other options.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Feb 3, 2013 7:15 PM  |
| 15 | I love the stepping stones and don't want them to change. Easy enough to                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Feb 3, 2013 7:00 PM  |

Page 2, Q4. What are the main reasons for your selected option?

- use another crossing of it's flooded.
- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                       |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 16 | As above, slightly upstream AND again downstream, 5 mins max either way are bridges available all weather conditions to ALL users disabled or not. Don't re-create the same thing. Leave a different experience available for city families!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Feb 3, 2013 6:00 PM   |
| 17 | I do not want the stones removed - I love them. But there should be safer option for disabled people, the elderly, young children, and avid walkers in the area when the stones are flooded or big trees come down in storms.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Feb 3, 2013 4:14 PM   |
| 18 | It is a beautiful area - I know it floods but then I just go further on.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Feb 1, 2013 10:32 PM  |
| 19 | Covered in my answers to likes and further comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Jan 31, 2013 10:04 PM |
| 20 | As stated above they are fun and interesting and it would be a massive waste of funds to change them                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Jan 28, 2013 1:34 PM  |
| 21 | Access during regular rain periods to other side of park                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Jan 28, 2013 3:00 AM  |
| 22 | Changing the present arrangements would degrade what I regard as a very attractive aspect of our local environment and the cost involved in constructing a low level crossing or bridge cannot be justified. The public works funds that would be required could be put to much better use!                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Jan 26, 2013 4:42 PM  |
| 23 | I think that the bridge would be a waste of public money. The majority of people to whom I have spoken about this issue also prefer to keep the stepping stones and feel that a bridge would: a: be a waste of money b: detract from the general appearance of the area c: not be of much greater benefit in flooded times than the stepping stones are now.                                                                                                                                                              | Jan 25, 2013 8:54 PM  |
| 24 | Keeping the stepping stones as they are, but still having a crossing further up or downstream to solve any access issues.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Jan 25, 2013 3:08 PM  |
| 25 | A bridge in addition to the stepping stones would be my preference.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Jan 24, 2013 4:16 AM  |
| 26 | I would like to see the stepping stones remain with a bridge constructed to one side. This would preserve the current amenity and provide a safer option for the elderly, disabled, bike riders, etc. It would also provide a permanent crossing in times of flooding.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Jan 24, 2013 4:06 AM  |
| 27 | This is an iconic part of the park used by myself and children for school. Great memories to be preserved.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Jan 23, 2013 4:59 PM  |
| 28 | I don't necessarily need a bridge nor the stones but I DO want to be able to cross the water at that point                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Jan 23, 2013 3:50 PM  |
| 29 | I have utilised the stepping stones daily for a period of 10 years do not consider the flooding a major issue or safety concern.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Jan 22, 2013 5:26 PM  |
| 30 | I like the stepping stones. Sure it is inconvenient when flooded but take alternate route. Surely money would be better spent maintaining bridges already in place within the park? Cyclists should dismount if wishing to cross. I thought the warning signs helpful but surely a little common sense? Low level crossing still would risk being flooded. Bridge would detract from the beautiful ambience of the area. But I do acknowledge there are risks of people being injured, drowning if caution not exercised. | Jan 22, 2013 1:33 AM  |

Page 2, Q4. What are the main reasons for your selected option?

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                       |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 31 | I have no concerns regarding the stepping stones, see above. I believe the benefits (aglan, see above) far outweigh the risks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Jan 21, 2013 3:14 PM  |
| 32 | It's the safest option for flood way - don't see how it would cost \$200k?????                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Jan 21, 2013 2:16 AM  |
| 33 | For the great majority of time the stepping stones function as intended. I believe the original concept is excellent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Jan 20, 2013 4:59 PM  |
| 34 | Cost, other options give people a false sense of security rather than them staying away from creek in flood and may make park more accessible/attractive for the people already illegally riding motorbikes on the tracks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Jan 18, 2013 5:31 PM  |
| 35 | That it might change things during the year to make it look better and that it can improve things.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Jan 17, 2013 9:08 PM  |
| 36 | A balance between current situation and cost of the of the upgrade.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Jan 17, 2013 9:00 PM  |
| 37 | no issue with current arrangements. cost is far too high for other options.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Jan 16, 2013 9:11 PM  |
| 38 | Waste of money to build a new bridge. the money could be better spent on fixing local road black spots. If you put in a easy access bridge this will give easier access to the stupid motor bike riders who already hoon around the outskirts of the park.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Jan 16, 2013 1:21 AM  |
| 39 | don't destroy something that is unique and enjoyable. if you remove them I will not be using the area any more as it will just be another open space.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Jan 16, 2013 12:20 AM |
| 40 | I see no need to provide a different crossing at this spot. If there is some significant reason to provide another bridge across the creek then it should be installed at another point. I would have no objection to that as long as it would not impede the flow of the creek.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Jan 15, 2013 10:01 PM |
| 41 | Unnecessary waste of money to construct another crossing as the stepping stones already provide a crossing. No need for wheel chair access in this area as it is not a main thoroughfare through the park. The path leading to the stepping stones is too narrow and steep for wheel chairs and would need to be modified (more expense). The stepping stones are a fun feature in the park rather than a main accessway to get through the park and if the river floods then you can still access the other areas of the park without having to cross the stepping stones. | Jan 14, 2013 9:22 PM  |
| 42 | Safety, access when flooding, people with disabilities can't get across,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Jan 13, 2013 3:08 PM  |
| 43 | They flood too often and a low level bridge would do the same                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Jan 13, 2013 3:06 PM  |
| 44 | Our family really enjoys using the stepping stones. They are a landmark for us, and a great way of getting close to nature within our urban environment. We love the whole of Umbagog District Park, but the stepping stones have long been a highlight for us. We are not at all worried about the safety aspect.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Jan 13, 2013 2:14 PM  |
| 45 | over the 17 years I've been walking there I have only met one person who had taken a slip and she was running and not watching - she was embarrassed. My children have enjoyed the stones; my family day care children loved to go; my dog enjoys a swim there. The spacing is easy enough for the majority of people - those with issues honestly wouldn't be walking that far anyway; those with bikes can, with a minimum of effort carry                                                                                                                                | Jan 13, 2013 1:03 PM  |

## Page 2, Q4. What are the main reasons for your selected option?

- their bikes across; mothers with prams only do it once - then find another route!
- 46 I would have selected an option of keeping the stones plus building a nearby bridge but that option wasn't available. So the next best option is to keep the current arrangements Jan 12, 2013 3:00 PM
- 47 I just like them as they are. Even if a bridge does go in I would like to see this a bit further along the creek and the stepping stones retained. Jan 9, 2013 1:24 PM
- 48 There is no reason to change the crossing. Jan 8, 2013 11:06 PM
- 49 Crossing would remain open all year. It is the safest option and would open the crossing to cyclists and Mum's with pushchairs. Jan 6, 2013 3:51 PM
- 50 I cannot justify the cost of other options and I am satisfied with the current arrangements. Jan 6, 2013 12:05 AM
- 51 The less construction in the creek area the better - this part of the creek should NOT be part of general commuter routes - It should be retained as an accessible part of the creek. For example, the stepping stones are used by regular users of the park, to gauge how much rain we have had by how much water covers the stepping stones - they are place to allow dogs off lead to have swim or paddle - a place for children to see water life ... please retain the stepping stones as they are now and have been for many years. Jan 4, 2013 3:27 AM
- 52 I don't feel there is justification to spend \$100,000 on a low level bridge noting it will still be subject to flooding. Similarly I don't think there is justification to spend \$200,000 on construction of a bridge for a relatively small vocal group of people. I accept some people may have had safety issues previously but I think the signs that have been put in place now inform people so that they have the option to change their route if concerned. Jan 3, 2013 7:14 PM
- 53 Definitely NO bridge/crossing. See comments re cyclists above. There are ample other crossings in the area. If they can't be raised then leave them as is! Likewise don't remove - they provide interesting variation to normal walks through the area. Jan 2, 2013 12:40 PM
- 54 There is no need to do anything. There are many more important things to spend ratepayers' money on than changing the current set up. Jan 2, 2013 4:11 AM
- 55 It would be good to have a bridge for disabled access and passage during high water periods. The stones should not be removed until AFTER a bridge is completed, however, as they are extremely useful and serve the local community well. Jan 2, 2013 3:36 AM
- 56 I do not think that the stepping stones should be removed. The crossing is adequate for what people use it for and that is to get to the other side. It would be inconvenient if the crossing was removed. Jan 1, 2013 10:58 PM
- 57 I love them as they are, think their signage is excellent. The above listed benefits would be lost if a bridge were to be constructed. Jan 1, 2013 9:07 PM
- 58 As noted in first point the stepping stones are a nice feature. Also they have been there as long as I can remember. (I am now 31) I never recall anyone having an accident there. Why change what isn't broken? Dec 31, 2012 6:36 PM
- 59 I like the peace and natural aspects and I want to prevent motorcycles Dec 29, 2012 3:09 PM

## Page 2, Q4. What are the main reasons for your selected option?

- coming over that area. Also my dog likes to get in the water.
- 60 We like to use the stepping stones. A low level crossing or bridge would remove the interest they provide. They slow down the pace of people making the crossing, which is nice in this busy world. Dec 29, 2012 3:35 AM
- 61 I think It serves the purpose to which It was intended Dec 28, 2012 1:40 PM
- 62 The stepping stones are great. Everyone I know likes them and I don't see the need for a bridge. Dec 23, 2012 11:56 PM
- 63 All the reasons I gave in my first answer. I understand some are complaining that it's inconvenient when it rains and you can't cross there. To me that's part of their charm and like most people I have no problem turning round and walking back the way I came. I'm opposed to all three other options. Dec 23, 2012 11:38 PM
- 64 There are already other bridge options fairly close by. The stepping stones have been there for decades with little or no "safety or injury" concerns. Nothing has changed in the creek or local environment so I can't see that they are any more dangerous now than they were 30 years ago. Dec 23, 2012 5:22 PM
- 65 I am absolutely opposed to the removal of the stepping stones. They are part of our suburb's heritage and a recreational spot. I endorse other people's concerns (expressed at the public meeting) about creating a fully accessible crossing, but that does not require the removal of the stepping stones. Dec 23, 2012 2:44 PM
- 66 Effects on the environment of building either a low level crossing or bridge also need to be considered. Dec 23, 2012 2:34 PM
- 67 We love the stepping stones for our daily walk and for easy access for our dog to swim. And additional bridge would be lovely a few days of the year when things are flooded, but there is already a bridge down the far end only 800m away which we can use in wet weather. Dec 22, 2012 8:50 PM
- 68 I would not like the crossing removed. The costs of the other crossing options are quite high and that money could probably be better spent on other projects. Dec 18, 2012 3:19 PM
- 69 I think they are a charming low cost, low maintenance attribute to a very pleasant park. Dec 17, 2012 3:56 AM
- 70 There are low-level crossings further down the creek (near Dunlop) and these are fine, and are only unusable in severe floods. Dec 16, 2012 6:33 PM
- 71 Common sense has to be used. If you are going to cross a river in flooding water then you need to think. Signage could be a better option. I'm sure it won't cost \$100,000 for more signage. There is a similar crossing out the back of Macgregor. This is ten times worse when flooded, it just hasn't been discovered because the people that use it know not to when wet. Dec 16, 2012 3:08 PM
- 72 Definitely not worth the cost. There are much more important things to do with that money. My family likes them just as they are. Dec 15, 2012 9:07 PM
- 73 See no reason to change current arrangements as there is a bridge further along the Creek that can be used if the Stepping Stones are under water. Dec 14, 2012 7:15 PM
- 74 It is a good place to cross and I would not want it to be removed. It is however unsafe a lot of the time and I'm able bodied. Must be worse if you

Page 2, Q4. What are the main reasons for your selected option?

	were not sure of your firing	
75	Everyone I know loves the stepping stones and so I believe they should remain as they are. The signs give enough warning to people who aren't familiar with the area, and those who do know to be careful.	Dec 12, 2012 7:16 PM
76	Removing or constructing a crossing may be the risk adverse option, but impacts on the cultural heritage of the park.	Dec 11, 2012 9:46 PM
77	So far as it affects me, it is a fun recreational feature on my walk.	Dec 11, 2012 9:28 PM
78	It will provide an all weather crossing point for people to enjoy Umbagog District Park	Dec 10, 2012 6:29 PM
79	I would be very upset if the stepping stones were removed.	Dec 10, 2012 1:28 PM
80	I think it is the better way as a bridge is useable in all weather conditions	Dec 9, 2012 8:31 PM
81	I can't see why you need to spend money to change them when a lot of people really enjoy them. You have warning signs, there's a bridge further down to cross if you are not able to cross at the stones. Again, just use common sense and don't cross if they are underwater or if you are not mobile.	Dec 9, 2012 5:37 PM
82	The stepping stones are part of the park and have been for years. You will be destroying a wonderful piece of the park. What is the world coming to?	Dec 8, 2012 1:35 PM
83	This is a unique structure in the ACT and serviceable to all but a few. The exclusion of some less abled persons is no more than significant than say the use of some of the playground equipment nearby.	Dec 7, 2012 6:04 PM
84	Access in th rain. I also would be happy if stones made higher. Please don't remove access .i do a circular walk around the creek	Dec 7, 2012 12:04 PM
85	I like the way it is. If someone doesn't want to use the stones, or it isn't possible due to the water levels, there are other means of getting across by going around. It should be considered as a short cut, not the only route available.	Dec 7, 2012 12:14 AM
86	The current option is sufficient, and has been for the past 15 years or so. There is an accessible bridge not too far along that those who can't use the stepping stones can use.	Dec 6, 2012 10:47 PM
87	Love them the way they are Part of our heritage in living in the area Natural and close contact with the creek Minimal risk to anyone - there are a bridges upstream for bikes etc. Extra rise is hardly an issue Low cost - zero maintenance To spend \$200,000 on an unneeded bridge is a ridiculous waste of rate payers money Let it Bel	Dec 6, 2012 12:52 PM
88	A bridge would enable all weather access for all track users.	Dec 5, 2012 10:24 PM
89	I believe people should display commonsense and take personal responsibility for their actions. It is quite clear that the stepping stones should not be used when the creek level is up and they are covered by water. Anyone who attempts to use them in such situations and then complains about the consequences is an idiot.	Dec 5, 2012 4:36 PM
90	There's a bridge 800 meters away use that for fark sakes	Dec 4, 2012 1:04 PM

## Page 2, Q4. What are the main reasons for your selected option?

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|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 91  | A low level crossing would allow easy crossing for youngsters in prams or with bikes but still give that feeling of being at creek level.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Dec 4, 2012 12:33 AM  |
| 92  | There are so many paths in the area & various bridges already in place. I don't see the need for a new another bridge. Waste of money. As explained above, the stepping stones discourage motor bikes from entering into that area of the park. With easier access, the motor bikes are just going to become more of a problem in the park!! I would prefer to see the money redirected into making the roads safer eg crn of Starke & southern cross (where the vet is). The installation of the traffic lights at Florey drive & southern cross has not improved the strake intersection at all. | Dec 3, 2012 11:11 PM  |
| 93  | Being over 70 and crossing with 2 dogs on leashes often ends up with at least one of us getting wet.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Dec 3, 2012 10:18 PM  |
| 94  | I only support the construction of a bridge because a low-level crossing would soon be seen by the complainants as inadequate and unsafe during and after rainfall events.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Dec 3, 2012 6:00 PM   |
| 95  | I like the crossing as it is. As there are bridges not far upstream and downstream of the stepping stones, I see little need for the bridge. Spending \$200,000+ on something that is not required is a waste of ratepayers money. The stepping stones have been there a long time and it would be sad to see them go. They are something a bit different and a place where kids can have some fun.                                                                                                                                                                                                | Dec 3, 2012 5:38 PM   |
| 96  | Seriously, the money could be better spent elsewhere. Alos the construction of anything there would impact the exsisting plants and ground an look terrible. A waste of time and money.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Dec 3, 2012 3:29 PM   |
| 97  | It's a common sense. We use when we can and there are alternatives if we can't use the steps.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Dec 3, 2012 1:49 PM   |
| 98  | There is no need for a different crossing, it would be far too expensive for an alternative, and there are more important things for money to be spent on.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Dec 3, 2012 12:21 AM  |
| 99  | It is the closest to what I really want which is to retain the stones but to raise them 10-15 cm. This would reduce inaccessability substantially                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Dec 1, 2012 5:26 PM   |
| 100 | There are crossing bridges not far away                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Dec 1, 2012 3:52 PM   |
| 101 | No need to change                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Dec 1, 2012 1:35 PM   |
| 102 | We really like them. They are fun. They are convenient but not essential. People who don't like stepping stones can use one of the nearby bridges.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Dec 1, 2012 3:09 AM   |
| 103 | Leave them where they are!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Dec 1, 2012 2:22 AM   |
| 104 | The infrastructure, and alternatives, that are in place are sufficient.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Nov 30, 2012 5:25 PM  |
| 105 | There are other alternatives, for those who can't cross them, none of which are unreasonable.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Nov 30, 2012 4:30 PM  |
| 106 | we do not have many old quirky things in Canberra, leave them alone                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Nov 30, 2012 3:44 PM  |
| 107 | 1. The stepping stones are not part of a commuter route, and do not provide unique access to anything other than perhaps to a very basic playground not suitable for babies or toddlers – and there are at least two other better                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Nov 30, 2012 11:07 AM |

**Page 2, Q4. What are the main reasons for your selected option?**

equipped playgrounds close by. 2. They are within a district park, a recreation area. There is no compulsion or requirement to use them other than voluntarily for recreational purposes. 3. A district park implies a non-urban environment – therefore some basic caution and commonsense is required. Otherwise, why have a district park in the first place? 4. Access may not always be available across the stepping stones, but access to what? There are other options into the park, and access is to the park. The stepping stones are not the only option for anything. 5. Anyone not travelling recreationally from the car park path at the western side of the park is better off travelling across relatively flat ground and crossing at the footbridge and turning right rather than climbing and then descending steeply to cross the stepping stones, and vice versa. 6 I traverse the stepping stones on my bicycle when riding recreationally – if in a hurry, it is faster and easier to do what I have described above. 7. The Canberra Chronicle says: "In an independent report completed in November last year for the ACT Government Eric Martin and Associates found that the stepping stones did discriminate against some users and their existence placed the Government at risk of a complaint under the Disability Discrimination Act." Comment: "at risk of a complaint".....hardly a ringing endorsement of the need for a bridge. "The report identified the steep gradient, unsuitable gravel surfaces, and potentially hazardous, uneven finishes as non-conformances with the Act." Comment: Did the study look at anything beyond the immediate vicinity of the stepping stones, ie other "hazards" on the same path? "the steep gradient"... The paths being accessed within the Park all have the same issues. The height will remain....a bridge may change the gradient, but make the climb longer. How high will the bridge be? If it starts at the top of the short steep bit on the western side, it will need to go all the way to the path parallel to the road on the Eastern side. In any case, there are other equally steep gradients to be negotiated on all of the path options once the stepping stones have been crossed, no matter what. A bridge will only move the gradient problem further into the park – perhaps making it worse for the less physically able members of the community. Other examples are the long steep steps up to Macrossan Crescent or the series of steps from the other side of Gininderra Drive up into Flynn. There are much longer and steeper, and are more likely to be on commuter routes – especially given that there is no footpath on the upward curve of Macrossan Crescent overlooking the northern part of the creek corridor. "unsuitable gravel surfaces and potentially uneven finishes"...the wooden footbridges around this area of park are uneven timber planks, generally coated with a quite uneven mix of gravel embedded into tar.....and damage to the side rails (natural decay and vandalism) adds to their "danger". Hazards also exist for all off path routes – eg over the grass, rocks etc particularly the gap in the fence on Florey Drive that allows access to the park ... other examples are available on the Latham side ...

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|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 108 | From what I know of this issue being raised it was raised by one person with a perceived problem with this, I would need to see the results of a survey like this to see if there was a real issue for a significant number of people to warrant options 2 or 3 and as far as I am concerned option 1 of removing the stones is a typical knee jerk reaction of over protection and is patently ridiculous - how many accidents/injuries have been caused there??????? | Nov 29, 2012 2:17 PM  |
| 109 | There are alternate routes if required that are not far away i.e in case of flooding, disability etc.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Nov 29, 2012 12:55 PM |
| 110 | Far more important things to focus on for golly and Roads ACT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Nov 29, 2012 11:16 AM |

Page 2, Q4. What are the main reasons for your selected option?

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|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 111 | The bridge is close enough for my purposes to not cause me any inconvenience.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Nov 29, 2012 3:10 AM  |
| 112 | There are already other alternatives for crossing the creek (albeit a short distance away), which should meet the needs of all ages and abilities (and in all weather conditions). If someone does not wish to 'risk' using the stepping stones, they are able to cross safely not too far away. The fun stepping stones should be left for those who make the decision they want to use them! Retaining the stepping stones gives people choice. Removing the stepping stones seems unnecessary given many people I speak to are happy with them, and the construction of either a low level crossing or bridge seems unnecessary when there is a safe alternative crossing further up the creek. The money could be used for other purposes (such as maintenance and mowing of the grass along the path that runs by the creek). | Nov 28, 2012 4:58 PM  |
| 113 | Because they're wonderful. Why change our stepping stones?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Nov 28, 2012 4:22 PM  |
| 114 | The stones are a great part of that area of the creek                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Nov 28, 2012 3:23 PM  |
| 115 | There are bridges already in place further up and at Florey Drive. Accessibility is therefore not an issue - this is something fun. Leave it alone. I heard Tony Gill talk about people not being able to access the playground but they can via the bridge - in fact they can access two playgrounds that way. The new signs that have been put up are also slightly silly. It seems self-evident that bikes can not cross at the stepping stones.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Nov 28, 2012 1:01 PM  |
| 116 | The stones have been a feature of the creek for many years, and it enhances the aesthetics of the area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Nov 28, 2012 3:07 AM  |
| 117 | There is a bridge further up the creek for access to the other side. This is a more adventurous way to get to the other side and may not be for everyone.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Nov 28, 2012 2:48 AM  |
| 118 | There is a footbridge located nearby for disabled persons to use as a means of crossing the creek. There is no need for the stepping stones to be removed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Nov 28, 2012 12:56 AM |
| 119 | History                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Nov 27, 2012 11:27 PM |
| 120 | No cost and no reduction in the enjoyment and amenity of the area/crossing. An alternative is just to put in more rigid, raised stepping stones - similar to around the lakes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Nov 27, 2012 10:24 PM |
| 121 | If it ain't broke then it doesn't require substantial expense to modify.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Nov 27, 2012 9:00 PM  |
| 122 | I have no concerns with current arrangement. There is a suitable bridge crossing not far. Why does every piece of infrastructure have to be fully accessible by the entire community? This is an option to the nearby pedestrian bridge for able-bodied people to use if they wish.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Nov 27, 2012 8:42 PM  |
| 123 | There is no reason to change                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Nov 27, 2012 7:35 PM  |
| 124 | Simple, cheap, and leaves a bit of Canberra alone for others to enjoy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Nov 27, 2012 7:29 PM  |
| 125 | People can see that there are stones, people can judge the weather for themselves. Why must we nanny people?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Nov 27, 2012 6:50 PM  |
| 126 | It's nice to have something a little different. There is another bridge close by. My children always enjoy getting to cross at the stones.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Nov 27, 2012 6:16 PM  |

**Page 2, Q4. What are the main reasons for your selected option?**

- |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                      |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 127 | as above - the stones are a wonderful adornment to the area and allow users to stand amid the flow of water and feel connected to nature, which a bridge doesn't allow. and there is a proximate alternate crossing for when the stones are inaccessible, so i see no reason to remove them (and incur the corollary expense of this work!) | Nov 27, 2012 5:44 PM |
| 128 | There is a bridge that is accessable to everyone not far away.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Nov 27, 2012 5:06 PM |
| 129 | They are fine as they are. I want to have the chance to take my kids over them when we ride through the park.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Nov 27, 2012 4:43 PM |
| 130 | Because it is the ONLY sensible option. No good reasons are given for their removal and the two other options are simply a waste of money.                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Nov 27, 2012 4:33 PM |



Page 2, Q5. Do you have any further comments on the shortlisted options?

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                      |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1  | Question 4 should also have an option to have a bridge or low level crossing as well as the retention of the stepping stones. A bridge at this point is needed for access by all to the excellent path network of Umbagog District Park and the views of the Ginnindera creek corridor.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Feb 7, 2013 7:36 PM  |
| 2  | While there are alternative crossings/bridges, an alternative bridge to service residents on their walks is much desired to upgrade Umbagog Nature Park Recreation serving parents with prams.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Feb 7, 2013 7:14 PM  |
| 3  | Removal of the stepping stones would severely limit the options for enjoying the area. The cost of the other options is not warranted. Removal of the surrounding vegetation and trees which would likely be associated with work for the other options would destroy the ambience and shade of the area. Variety, rather than 'sameness' of the walking route is important.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Feb 5, 2013 8:25 PM  |
| 4  | I do not agree that option 1 (removal without replacement of a crossing facility) would facilitate maximum use and enjoyment of the area. A crossing should remain at this location.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Feb 5, 2013 5:59 PM  |
| 5  | If a bridge or crossing were to be constructed, the stepping stones should not be removed. Any new construction should be further along the creek to allow the current crossing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Feb 5, 2013 5:27 PM  |
| 6  | If there is to be no addition of a low level crossing or bridge then DO NOT remove the current option.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Feb 4, 2013 10:06 PM |
| 7  | No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Feb 4, 2013 3:13 AM  |
| 8  | Was no option for keep stepping stones and build bridge/crossing ... Also no "don't know" ... lol (Personally, putting a bridge in is not that necessary, but I don't live right next to it or use it that often - but if those who do use the area want one, I wanted to suggest the idea of keeping the stepping stones and building a bridge/crossing nearby, rather than removing something that a lot of people like :-)) btw - I put "dissatisfied" for next question because there was no "other" button in the question about how often I use the stepping stones - so I had to choose a not correct option in order to proceed with the survey. Other than that, I was satisfied. | Feb 4, 2013 12:16 AM |
| 9  | Use the money on a more needy cause. The stepping stones are fine, you cant cater for everyones wishes, we have got used to them and know when they will be flooded. If you took the time to go down to the stepping stones on a weekend and saw the number of kids having good, clean fun playing around the area, I am sure you would see my point. LEAVE THE STEPPING STONES AS IS. FORGET THE WHINGERS!!!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Feb 3, 2013 8:33 PM  |
| 10 | Whilst the stops are not accessible to all people at all times, the area is used predominately by recreational users who would be aware of the current crossing arrangements (ie crossing bridge in such close proximity to the stones). People don't have to use the stones to cross and have both the option of the current crossing bridge or returning on the same side of the creek if they deem the bridge to far.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Feb 3, 2013 7:15 PM  |
| 11 | Money and bridges could be better used to clean up and eliminate noxious weeds and trees and bring creek back to its former condition. (Prior to urban habitation)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Feb 3, 2013 7:00 PM  |
| 12 | The other options are a waste of money given the other bridges already exist 5 mins walking time either way.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Feb 3, 2013 6:00 PM  |

## Page 2, Q5. Do you have any further comments on the shortlisted options?

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 13 | A bridge or low level crossing should complement the stones, and the stones should not be removed as I see them being enjoyed by the local community every day.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Feb 3, 2013 4:14 PM   |
| 14 | Low level crossing would be the next option - please don't totally remove the ability to cross there.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Feb 1, 2013 10:32 PM  |
| 15 | No point removing stepping stones alone - would create problems even at low water flows. Bridge would be total overengineering.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Jan 31, 2013 10:04 PM |
| 16 | People are ridiculously over safety conscious and it takes the fun out of stuff. There are plenty of bridges but no spots like this one where you can 'walk' through the river. My kids love it there!                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Jan 28, 2013 1:34 PM  |
| 17 | Keep stepping stones also for children's experience...ie build bridge close to but not directly above the stones. NB, the playground in the park requires significant improvement and have previously communicated with local member about this when asked for consultation...a modern playground please!!                                                                                                                     | Jan 28, 2013 3:00 AM  |
| 18 | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Jan 26, 2013 4:42 PM  |
| 19 | Please keep the stepping stones. I am over 60 and have no trouble crossing the stepping stones. When I reach a point of having a problem, I will take responsibility for my own actions and not use them.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Jan 25, 2013 8:54 PM  |
| 20 | The most important thing for me is to keep the stepping stones.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Jan 25, 2013 3:08 PM  |
| 21 | Please do not remove the stepping stones without providing a better crossing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Jan 24, 2013 4:16 AM  |
| 22 | Removal of the stepping stones is the worst option and I am prepared to lie in the path of bulldozers to prevent this happening.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Jan 24, 2013 4:06 AM  |
| 23 | If it is working well, no need to fix it.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Jan 23, 2013 4:59 PM  |
| 24 | If the stones were removed, would they be replaced by one of the other options?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Jan 22, 2013 1:33 AM  |
| 25 | The options are inadequate. At the public meeting at Latham Primary School last year the option of constructing a bridge near the stepping stones, but NOT removing or replacing the stepping stones, was discussed and would satisfy all users. That is, keep the stepping stones as is but improve crossing access (for bikes, wheelchairs etc.) nearby.                                                                     | Jan 21, 2013 3:14 PM  |
| 26 | A low level crossing would create little advantage. A bridge would have to be high to avoid becoming a dam in flood waters and in many cases the eastern bike path and approaches are under water as well and overall the raising of the approaches and a bridge construction would detract from the natural beauty of the area. The money would be far better spent in maintenance such as rubbish removal, path repairs etc. | Jan 20, 2013 4:59 PM  |
| 27 | I don't see a need for a change to the current arrangements, with another bridge quite close. I think there needs to be recognition that the creek can only be crossed in all weathers at certain designated points and that not all crossings are suitable for all users.                                                                                                                                                     | Jan 18, 2013 5:31 PM  |
| 28 | I reckon that it will improve things the way that they are and that they can                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Jan 17, 2013 9:08 PM  |

Page 2, Q5. Do you have any further comments on the shortlisted options?

- see what things are and that they can have access to things over that way and they can do things that they can do.
- 29 no change is needed. those with mobility issues can use the other bridges in the area Jan 16, 2013 9:11 PM
- 30 Why not straighten the current stepping stones and make the slightly closer together. Jan 16, 2013 1:21 AM
- 31 why not some option that incorporated the stepping stones into it, instead of all or nothing. Jan 16, 2013 12:20 AM
- 32 I strongly object to a low level crossing which would result in the flow of the creek being impeded and would not deter children on bikes riding across when it was flooded - so it would be more dangerous than the present arrangement. Jan 15, 2013 10:01 PM
- 33 The stepping stones have been there for a long time and are an enhancement to the park. If you construct a low level crossing this may be subject to flooding and a bridge will be subject to ongoing maintenance costs. In summary if the stones are taken out and replaced it will be an unnecessary expensive exercise and you would be removing something that has provided fun and entertainment to the local community and to visitors. Jan 14, 2013 9:22 PM
- 34 A bridge along side the stepping stones, for safety reasons, and young children. Should have been asked if we wanted both. We don't want either/or we want both! Jan 13, 2013 3:08 PM
- 35 The stepping stones should be kept and the bridge should be there for disabled and elderly access Jan 13, 2013 3:06 PM
- 36 If community members are still concerned about the stepping stones, if they are left as they are, could a hand rail be added, as well as more signs pointing out the dangers? If a bridge is built to replace the stepping stones, I would very much like to see it well integrated with the natural environment of the crossing, using beautiful and sustainable materials. Jan 13, 2013 2:14 PM
- 37 constructing a bridge or crossing would be a waste of public funds given the small amount of people they would assist. There are so many other places in Canberra those funds could go to - even just putting in a decent playground within the park. Removal of the stones wouldn't solve anyone's issues - and that in itself would make one of the other options a must. Signage is fine. Jan 13, 2013 1:03 PM
- 38 Yes. Why wasn't the option for keeping the stones plus building a bridge nearby given? Jan 12, 2013 3:00 PM
- 39 I don't see removing any crossing as an option for locals who regularly walk the creek tracks. It is nicely situated between the footbridge and Florey Dr. If a bridge isn't feasible then leave as is. Jan 6, 2013 3:51 PM
- 40 They are too costly. Jan 6, 2013 12:05 AM
- 41 No - as far as I am concerned spending more money on crossing the creek is a waste - arguments around disabled access to or over the stepping stones should not be a matter of removing or replacing the stepping stones but finding a more suitable and safer access not to cross the creek (there are already bridges available but a spot that such people with disabilities

**Page 2, Q5. Do you have any further comments on the shortlisted options?**

- can get closer to the creek - another example would be a short path near the bridge down from the barbeques (on the latham side) an area which enables people to sit on rocks by the creek (not far from the grooves)
- 42 No Jan 3, 2013 7:14 PM
- 43 There are other bridges in need of repair within a few hundred metres of the stones. If you want to spend money, then fix/replace them. Jan 2, 2013 12:40 PM
- 44 Removing the current steps also takes away from youngsters the experience of such a crossing and the associated learning opportunity. It makes no sense to spend the amounts suggested to address flooding which doesn't happen that often and rarely lasts for more than a day or so. Jan 2, 2013 4:11 AM
- 45 The stones should not be removed unless replaced by a higher grade crossing. Removal would be a considerable negative impact on my use of Umbagog Park. If no bridge is approved/funded, making the stepping stones a bit taller would assist in making them safer as the surface would be less likely to be wet. Jan 2, 2013 3:36 AM
- 46 I think that the construction of a crossing or bridge is excessive and the money can be better spent elsewhere. Jan 1, 2013 10:58 PM
- 47 As regards building a bridge. Isn't it possible a bridge will be damaged by trees falling down in winds and storms? Of course you could cut all the trees down but that would be a shame as the stepping stones are a lovely spot. The only real option which would make sense would be if enough disabled persons wanted access across the creek there. Then you would make a bridge or low level crossing so it still kind of feels like stepping stones (being close to water) Now I did say I'd like the stepping stones to stay, however if enough disabled persons wanted access then a bridge of course makes the most sense for everyone concerned. OR could you have BOTH. leave the stepping stones but also add a bridge up creek 10 meters or so. Now that's an option unfortunately not listed. Dec 31, 2012 6:36 PM
- 48 Please keep the stepping stones. If they are flooded I just retrace my steps. That's not too hard. It's interesting to see the changes in the level of the water. Dec 29, 2012 3:09 PM
- 49 If the survey demonstrates that the majority want a crossing or bridge, can the stones please be left in place and the bridge or crossing be built a little further down stream??? Please!!!! Dec 29, 2012 3:35 AM
- 50 No Dec 23, 2012 11:56 PM
- 51 I find it much more of a concern that Macgregor residents have no safe crossing to the entrance from the public footpath through the suburb to the main entrance of the park. The elderly and parents with young children cannot make the dangerous crossing across Florey Drive when it is busy. It is simple to say the crossing isn't used so none is needed - they don't cross there because it's too dangerous. It's unfair to deny Macgregor residents access to a place like Umbagog. Use that money to give fair park access to all by building a pedestrian island in the middle so just one lane of traffic can be negotiated at a time. Dec 23, 2012 11:38 PM
- 52 Don't waste money on a bridge and don't take the stones away to make a low level crossing. After all a low level crossing would still be flooded nearly as often as the stepping stones and there are already bridges. Taking the Dec 23, 2012 5:22 PM

**Page 2, Q5. Do you have any further comments on the shortlisted options?**

- stones out and not putting anything there is "nanny state" over-reaction. People need to be responsible for their own safety. If they can't safely use the stones then there are other options for them.
- 53 If the money cannot be found, and the government has now met its legal obligations with the new signage, then I strongly encourage the government to leave well enough alone. Dec 23, 2012 2:44 PM
- 54 Option of making a clear map of the area, placed at main access points-marking out trails that are accessible to people with mobility issues, bike routes etc. could also be considered. Dec 23, 2012 2:34 PM
- 55 Appreciation the community consultation that is taking place about this. Dec 22, 2012 8:50 PM
- 56 It is important to retain a crossing so removing the stepping stones and not replacing them with another crossing would be very disappointing. Dec 18, 2012 3:19 PM
- 57 Definitely NO to removing the Stepping Stones as would remove a perfectly good Creek Crossing. Funding required for construction of low-level crossing or bridge could be used for other work in Canberra's Nature Parks - spraying of weeds, rabbit control etc Dec 14, 2012 7:15 PM
- 58 No Dec 12, 2012 7:16 PM
- 59 Could a non slip surface be applied to the stones? Dec 11, 2012 9:46 PM
- 60 I'm sure the ACT Govt. has plenty of other priorities it could spend our money on. E.g., finishing road works which seem to take an age. Dec 11, 2012 9:28 PM
- 61 An alternative crossing would be my second choice. Dec 10, 2012 1:28 PM
- 62 Don't get rid of the stepping stones! Such a large amount of money is better spent elsewhere. Dec 9, 2012 5:37 PM
- 63 Why would we waste tax payers money on this? I will be writing to my federal and local members if it is decided to waste money in this way. Dec 8, 2012 1:35 PM
- 64 A low level crossing would achieve little. If a high level crossing is to be provided then it should be placed elsewhere, perhaps further towards Kippax where there is a T junction where three paths join. Removing the stones would achieve nothing other than satisfying those who complain about everything they do not like! Dec 7, 2012 6:04 PM
- 65 There seem to be a lot of people who can come up with "brilliant ideas" that end up costing the Community. Try asking them to pay for it themselves and then see who is really interested in it. Dec 7, 2012 12:14 AM
- 66 Perhaps you could consider completely concreting in the creek, that way it would be completely risk free. Dec 6, 2012 10:47 PM
- 67 Bridge far too expensive - think of all the maintenance costs and risk with slipping on gravel. The maintenance costs will be ongoing and huge. Better to spend the money on other things in the area such as habitat improvement. Don't destroy our heritage! Dec 6, 2012 12:52 PM
- 68 I would not like to see the stones removed but suggest a bridge be constructed quite close by, with new paths aligned, to provide all year round access. Dec 5, 2012 10:24 PM

Page 2, Q5. Do you have any further comments on the shortlisted options?

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 69 | As there is already a bridge a short distance away, anyone with disabilities or who needs a flat surface to cross the creek can do so safely already. The whole point of the stones was for a fun way to cross the creek and to be able to explore the water and bank more closely. Such an amenity should be left alone.                                                                                                                                                                                      | Dec 5, 2012 4:36 PM   |
| 70 | There's no need for a bridge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Dec 4, 2012 1:04 PM   |
| 71 | I don't believe a bridge is necessary as you can quickly see whether the water is going to be too high to enable a safe crossing. And this is even before you get to the crossing. The bridge is high cost, low priority and would probably never be funded. The little time the crossing is unusable due to the water level being too high is very small. As a last resort leave the stepping stones as they are. Please do not remove them. If normal and proper care is taken there are no safety concerns. | Dec 4, 2012 12:33 AM  |
| 72 | Please do not remove the stepping stones. The park and it's relaxed life lifestyle is a major reason why I love living in the area. I                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Dec 3, 2012 11:11 PM  |
| 73 | If either a bridge or low-level crossing were the preferred option it still represents a gross demand by a few people on public money/funds. The money would be better spent on making a crossing of Florey Drive safe for Macgregor residents attempting to reach the creek corridor                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Dec 3, 2012 6:00 PM   |
| 74 | I and my family would be very saddened to see the stepping stones go. It brings a whimsical charm to the area and there are so many other areas you can cross in the rare event that the stepping stones be flooded. Please leave them be!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Dec 3, 2012 3:29 PM   |
| 75 | none                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Dec 3, 2012 1:49 PM   |
| 76 | Please don't remove the stepping stones, I love them and would hate to see them go                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Dec 3, 2012 12:21 AM  |
| 77 | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Dec 1, 2012 5:26 PM   |
| 78 | There is no need to sanitise everything for people who, although fit enough to walk to the stepping stones, won't walk a few hundred metres to a nearby bridge.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Dec 1, 2012 3:09 AM   |
| 79 | Preference 2 would be a low level crossing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Nov 30, 2012 11:07 AM |
| 80 | While I agree that sometimes people will do stupid things and things should be made safe within reason there is a line which is too far when a nanny state ensues and if the stones are removed then what is next when the next single minded person decides that kids climbing trees is dangerous as some fall out and hurt themselves. Do we have to end up with a city devoid of character but full of hi-viz signs warning of all potential dangers                                                        | Nov 29, 2012 2:17 PM  |
| 81 | Why take away something like this. Good fun all round. Can't make everything 'safe'. Worst case, you fall in and get wet. Water, if below stone level, is not deep. Should we wrap ourselves in cotton wool while we're at it?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Nov 29, 2012 12:55 PM |
| 82 | Can you offer the option of a bridge before getting the funding? What if the bid is unsuccessful?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Nov 29, 2012 11:16 AM |
| 83 | If the stepping stones are retained, the current signage alerts people to the potential risk of using the stepping stones. I consider this sufficient for people                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Nov 28, 2012 4:58 PM  |

Page 2, Q5. Do you have any further comments on the shortlisted options?

- to be able to make an informed decision about whether to cross. The signage also alerts people unfamiliar with the area to the alternative crossing along the creek.
- 84 A low level crossing would still have issues with flooding, and people can cross the river via bridge at other points. Please leave the stones alone. Nov 28, 2012 4:22 PM
- 85 Plkease leave it as is. Nov 28, 2012 3:07 AM
- 86 Removal of stones would be totally stupid. If it is too dangerous then lets just put a fence along the length of the creek and keep everyone away. Nov 28, 2012 2:48 AM
- 87 Please don't remove them! Nov 27, 2012 10:24 PM
- 88 An additional option to increase the signage about the dangers in high flow events. Nov 27, 2012 9:00 PM
- 89 Why build a bridge when there are two other ways to cross the creek when are on paths connected to places people go? I see the stones as a short cut, not a main crossing on a senic path, not a comuting path Nov 27, 2012 7:35 PM
- 90 No. Nov 27, 2012 7:29 PM
- 91 Perhaps a simple sign for the utterly clueless: warning, rocks slippery when wet, a bridge is 200m <-- that way Nov 27, 2012 6:50 PM
- 92 yes, there might have been one that detailed more comprehensive signage but no other changes. Nov 27, 2012 5:44 PM
- 93 If people have a problem with the stepping stones - they are not forced to use them as there is already a bridge near by! Nov 27, 2012 5:06 PM
- 94 What's so special about these particular stones? If these go, will the stones in John Knight Park be next? Then every other set in the ACT? Where does it end? Nov 27, 2012 4:43 PM
- 95 Why isn't the option in the media release to "erect... Improved warning signage on the approaches to the stepping stones" shown in this survey?!?!?! To me that is the way to go - it placates nervous government lawyers AND lets the community retain this magical little space! Constructing a new bridge would be utterly ridiculous given the proximity of the existing bridge. A low level crossing would also be ridiculous because it would STILL be unusable "during significant wet weather events". Nov 27, 2012 4:33 PM



## Page 2, Q7. Demographic Information

What suburb do you live in?

1	Latham	Feb 7, 2013 7:36 PM
2	Latham	Feb 7, 2013 7:14 PM
3	Latham	Feb 5, 2013 8:25 PM
4	Macgregor	Feb 5, 2013 7:35 PM
5	Macgregor	Feb 5, 2013 5:59 PM
6	Macgregor	Feb 5, 2013 5:27 PM
7	Latham	Feb 4, 2013 10:06 PM
8	Macgregor	Feb 4, 2013 3:13 AM
9	Macgregor	Feb 4, 2013 1:35 AM
10	Dunlop	Feb 4, 2013 12:16 AM
11	Latham	Feb 3, 2013 10:23 PM
12	Latham	Feb 3, 2013 8:33 PM
13	MacGregor	Feb 3, 2013 7:15 PM
14	McGregor	Feb 3, 2013 7:00 PM
15	Macgregor	Feb 3, 2013 6:00 PM
16	Latham	Feb 3, 2013 4:14 PM
17	latham	Feb 1, 2013 10:32 PM
18	higgins	Jan 31, 2013 10:04 PM
19	Latham	Jan 28, 2013 1:34 PM
20	Latham	Jan 28, 2013 3:00 AM
21	Latham	Jan 26, 2013 4:42 PM
22	Latham	Jan 25, 2013 8:54 PM
23	Latham	Jan 25, 2013 3:08 PM
24	Macgregor	Jan 24, 2013 4:16 AM
25	Macgregor	Jan 24, 2013 4:06 AM
26	MacGregor	Jan 23, 2013 4:59 PM
27	2615	Jan 23, 2013 3:50 PM
28	MacGregor	Jan 22, 2013 5:26 PM
29	MacGregor	Jan 22, 2013 1:33 AM

## Page 2, Q7. Demographic Information

## What suburb do you live in?

30	Latham	Jan 21, 2013 3:14 PM
31	Latham	Jan 21, 2013 2:16 AM
32	Latham	Jan 20, 2013 4:59 PM
33	Latham	Jan 18, 2013 5:31 PM
34	Emu Ridge	Jan 17, 2013 9:08 PM
35	Latham	Jan 17, 2013 9:00 PM
36	latham	Jan 16, 2013 9:11 PM
37	Latham	Jan 16, 2013 1:21 AM
38	Florey	Jan 16, 2013 12:20 AM
39	Latham	Jan 15, 2013 10:01 PM
40	Latham	Jan 14, 2013 9:22 PM
41	Latham	Jan 13, 2013 3:08 PM
42	Latham	Jan 13, 2013 3:06 PM
43	Latham	Jan 13, 2013 2:14 PM
44	MacGregor	Jan 13, 2013 1:03 PM
45	Latham	Jan 12, 2013 3:00 PM
46	Macgrogor	Jan 9, 2013 1:24 PM
47	Latham	Jan 8, 2013 11:06 PM
48	Macgregor	Jan 6, 2013 3:51 PM
49	Macgregor	Jan 6, 2013 12:05 AM
50	macgregor	Jan 4, 2013 3:27 AM
51	Latham	Jan 3, 2013 7:14 PM
52	Flynn	Jan 2, 2013 12:40 PM
53	Macgregor	Jan 2, 2013 4:11 AM
54	Latham	Jan 2, 2013 3:36 AM
55	Latham	Jan 1, 2013 10:58 PM
56	flynn	Jan 1, 2013 9:07 PM
57	Macgregor	Dec 31, 2012 6:36 PM
58	Flynn	Dec 29, 2012 3:09 PM

## Page 2, Q7. Demographic information

## What suburb do you live in?

59	Macgregor	Dec 29, 2012 3:35 AM
60	Holt	Dec 28, 2012 1:40 PM
61	Macgregor	Dec 23, 2012 11:56 PM
62	Macgregor	Dec 23, 2012 11:38 PM
63	Latham	Dec 23, 2012 5:22 PM
64	Latham	Dec 23, 2012 2:44 PM
65	Latham	Dec 23, 2012 2:34 PM
66	Latham	Dec 22, 2012 8:50 PM
67	Macgregor	Dec 18, 2012 3:19 PM
68	Holt	Dec 17, 2012 3:56 AM
69	Dunlop	Dec 16, 2012 6:33 PM
70	Macgregor	Dec 16, 2012 3:08 PM
71	higgins	Dec 15, 2012 9:07 PM
72	Higgins	Dec 14, 2012 7:15 PM
73	Latham	Dec 14, 2012 2:16 AM
74	Macgregor	Dec 12, 2012 7:16 PM
75	Latham	Dec 11, 2012 9:46 PM
76	Flynn	Dec 11, 2012 9:28 PM
77	Higgins	Dec 10, 2012 6:29 PM
78	Charnwood	Dec 10, 2012 1:28 PM
79	Aranda	Dec 9, 2012 8:31 PM
80	Latham	Dec 9, 2012 5:37 PM
81	Scullin	Dec 8, 2012 1:35 PM
82	Latham	Dec 7, 2012 6:04 PM
83	Flynn	Dec 7, 2012 12:04 PM
84	New Latham.	Dec 7, 2012 12:14 AM
85	Weetangera	Dec 6, 2012 10:47 PM
86	Lower Flynn	Dec 6, 2012 12:52 PM
87	Hawker	Dec 5, 2012 10:24 PM

## Page 2, Q7. Demographic Information

## What suburb do you live in?

88	Holt	Dec 5, 2012 4:36 PM
89	Macgregor	Dec 4, 2012 1:04 PM
90	Latham	Dec 4, 2012 12:33 AM
91	belconnen	Dec 4, 2012 12:10 AM
92	Latham	Dec 3, 2012 11:11 PM
93	Latham	Dec 3, 2012 10:18 PM
94	Flynn	Dec 3, 2012 6:00 PM
95	Latham	Dec 3, 2012 5:38 PM
96	Latham	Dec 3, 2012 3:29 PM
97	Latham	Dec 3, 2012 1:49 PM
98	Lathan	Dec 3, 2012 12:21 AM
99	Latham	Dec 1, 2012 5:26 PM
100	Latham	Dec 1, 2012 3:52 PM
101	Kaleen	Dec 1, 2012 1:35 PM
102	Flynn	Dec 1, 2012 3:09 AM
103	Latham	Dec 1, 2012 2:22 AM
104	Holt	Nov 30, 2012 5:25 PM
105	Fraser	Nov 30, 2012 4:30 PM
106	Cook	Nov 30, 2012 3:44 PM
107	Macgregor	Nov 30, 2012 11:07 AM
108	Melba	Nov 29, 2012 2:17 PM
109	Higgins	Nov 29, 2012 12:55 PM
110	Latham	Nov 29, 2012 11:16 AM
111	Macgregor	Nov 29, 2012 3:10 AM
112	Latham	Nov 28, 2012 5:12 PM
113	Dunlop	Nov 28, 2012 4:58 PM
114	Latham	Nov 28, 2012 4:22 PM
115	Evatt	Nov 28, 2012 3:23 PM
116	Macgregor	Nov 28, 2012 1:01 PM

## Page 2, Q7. Demographic information

What suburb do you live in?

117	Dunlop	Nov 28, 2012 3:07 AM
118	Flynn	Nov 28, 2012 2:48 AM
119	Evatt	Nov 28, 2012 12:56 AM
120	Kaleen	Nov 27, 2012 11:27 PM
121	Latham	Nov 27, 2012 10:24 PM
122	Flynn	Nov 27, 2012 9:00 PM
123	Kaleen	Nov 27, 2012 8:42 PM
124	Kippax	Nov 27, 2012 7:35 PM
125	Not important.	Nov 27, 2012 7:29 PM
126	Bruce	Nov 27, 2012 6:50 PM
127	Macgregor	Nov 27, 2012 6:16 PM
128	spence	Nov 27, 2012 5:44 PM
129	Calwell	Nov 27, 2012 5:41 PM
130	Macgregor	Nov 27, 2012 5:06 PM
131	Macgregor	Nov 27, 2012 4:43 PM
132	Giralang	Nov 27, 2012 4:33 PM



**ACT**  
Government

Territory and Municipal Services

# MEDIA Release

Communications

Telephone 6207 6882 or 6205 0312

MR671/1112

xx November 2012

## COMMUNITY INVITED TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON FUTURE OF UMBAGONG STEPPING STONES

Director of Roads ACT, Tony Gill, today invited residents of West Belconnen and other interested stakeholders to complete a survey on the future of a stepping stone crossing of Ginninderra Creek in Umbagong District Park.

"The stepping stones have provided local residents with a means to cross Ginninderra Creek since 1993 when Umbagong District Park opened," Mr Gill said. "A footbridge is also available further up the river near a playground and barbeque area for people to cross.

"Unfortunately during significant wet weather events the crossing becomes flooded and is not safe to use the stepping stones. Some residents have also raised concerns around the general accessibility of the stepping stones. On the other hand, other residents are very fond of them and want them to remain."

Mr Gill said Roads ACT has met with residents and interested stakeholders on a number of occasions over the past year to discuss the stepping stones.

"In response to feedback from the community, Roads ACT has commissioned an independent consultant to assess the safety of the existing stepping stone crossing and recommend future options. Improved signage has been erected on the approaches to the stepping stones. Other identified options to explore include removing the stepping stones, constructing a low level crossing, constructing a bridge, or no change to the current arrangements.

"An important part of this project is seeking feedback from local residents and the surrounding community about their preferred option for the future of the Umbagong stepping stones.

Interested Canberrans can provide feedback and nominate their preferred option by completing a survey at [www.timetotalk.act.gov.au](http://www.timetotalk.act.gov.au). The survey is also available at Kippax and Belconnen libraries and the Belconnen Canberra Connect shopfront.

"The ACT Government is committed to providing safe and accessible facilities in its town and district parks. I encourage interested residents to complete the survey," Mr Gill said.

Consultation closes xx xx.

Statement ends

Media contact: Helen Gombar-Millynn, 6205 3696



## Stepping stone crossing in Umbagog District Park Community survey

In response to feedback from the community, Roads ACT has commissioned an independent consultant to assess the safety of the existing stepping stone crossing of Ginninderra Creek in Umbagog District Park. Warning signage has been erected on the approaches to the stepping stones and four options have been identified for the consultation with the community. These include removing the stepping stones, constructing a low level crossing, constructing a bridge, or making no change to the current arrangements.

Please complete the following survey to have your say on the future of the stepping stone crossing in Umbagog District Park.

**1. How often do you currently use the stepping stones in Umbagog District Park?**

- |                                                |                                  |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daily                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Once a week           | <input type="checkbox"/> Never   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More than once a week |                                  |

**2. What do you like about the stepping stone crossing?**

---



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**3. What are your concerns with the stepping stone crossing?**

---



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**4. What is your preferred option for the future of the stepping stone crossing?  
Please select from the shortlisted options below:**

- Remove the stepping stones (relatively low cost that could be done as part of normal maintenance works)
- Construct a low level crossing (the estimated cost of this option is \$100,000+. This would require capital works funds and would need to be considered in a future works budget bid)
- Construct a bridge (the estimated cost of this option is \$200,000+. This would require capital works funds and would need to be considered in a future works budget bid.)
- No change to current arrangements

**5. What are the main reasons for your selected option?**

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6. Do you have any further comments on the shortlisted options? Feel free to write comments on additional paper and attach them.

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7. Are you satisfied with this opportunity to provide feedback on the stepping stones?

- Very satisfied                       Neither satisfied or dissatisfied                       Very dissatisfied  
 Satisfied                                       Dissatisfied

#### DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

8. What suburb do you live in?

---

9. What is your gender?

- Male                                               Female

10. What is your age group?

- Under 18                                               35-54  
 18-34                                               55 and over

11. Do you speak a language other than English at home?

- Yes                                               No

12. Do you identify as a person with a disability?

- Yes                                               No

13. Do you identify as an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander?

- Yes                                               No

Please return the survey via mail to:

Stepping stone crossing  
 TAMS Community Engagement  
 GPO Box 158  
 Canberra ACT 2601

Or, hand deliver to an ACT Government library or Canberra Connect Shopfront staff member

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey

SURVEY CLOSURES XX XX 2012

For further information please visit [www.timetoalk.act.gov.au](http://www.timetoalk.act.gov.au) or call Canberra Connect on 13 22 81

*ACT Government Community Noticeboard – Saturday xx November 2012*

**Community survey: stepping stone crossing in Umbagog District Park**

Residents of West Belconnen and other interested stakeholders are invited to complete a community survey on the future of a stepping stone crossing of Ginninderra Creek in Umbagog District Park.

In response to feedback from the community, Roads ACT has commissioned an independent consultant to assess the safety of the existing stepping stone crossing and recommend future options. These include removing the stepping stones, constructing a low level crossing, constructing a bridge, or no change to the current arrangements.

To complete the community survey visit [www.timetotalk.act.gov.au](http://www.timetotalk.act.gov.au). The survey is also available at the Klppax and Belconnen library or Belconnen Canberra Connect shopfront.

**Consultation closes xx xx.**

For more information please contact Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.

**WEB text****Stepping stone crossing in Umbagog District Park**

Residents of West Belconnen and other interested stakeholders are invited to complete a community survey on the future of a stepping stone crossing of Ginninderra Creek in Umbagog District Park.

During significant wet weather events the crossing becomes flooded. With repeated wet weather events experienced in Canberra last year, the crossing was flooded for extended periods of time. In response to concerns raised by the community regarding the flooding, as well as the safety of the crossing when not flooded, Roads ACT has been working with the community to address their concerns.

Roads ACT has commissioned an independent consultant to assess the safety of the existing stepping stone crossing. Warning signage has been erected on the approaches to the stepping stones and four options have been identified for consultation with the community. These include removing the stepping stones, constructing a low level crossing, constructing a bridge, or making no change to the current arrangements.

An important part of this project is seeking feedback from local residents and the surrounding community about their preferred option.

**To provide feedback or for more information:**

- Complete an online survey (insert link)
- Complete a hard copy survey at the Kippax or Belconnen library or Belconnen Canberra Connect shopfront
- Contact Canberra Connect on 13 22 81

**Consultation closes xx xx 2012.**

# Stepping stone crossing in Umbagog District Park

## FACT SHEET

The ACT Government has commissioned an independent consultant to assess the safety of the existing stepping stone crossing in Umbagog District Park and recommend future options for the crossing. The stepping stones have provided local residents with a means to cross Ginninderra Creek since 1993 when Umbagog District Park opened. A footbridge is also available further up the river near a playground and barbeque area for people to cross.

During significant wet weather events the stepping stone crossing becomes flooded. With repeated wet weather events in Canberra last year, the crossing was flooded for extended periods of time. Roads ACT has been working with the community over the past year to address safety concerns of the crossing as well as concerns around general accessibility. Warning signage has now been erected. At a public meeting with Latham and Macgregor residents in September 2012 it was agreed that the Government would seek feedback from the wider community on the future of the stepping stone crossing.



### Future options for the stepping stones

An important part of this project is seeking feedback from local residents and the surrounding community about their preferred option for the future of the Umbagog stepping stones.

Options for the stepping stone crossing include:

- removing the stepping stones;
- constructing a low level crossing;
- constructing a bridge; or
- no change to the current arrangements.



### To have your say or for further information

- Complete an online survey at [www.timetotalk.act.gov.au](http://www.timetotalk.act.gov.au)
- Complete a hard copy survey at the Klippax or Belconnen library or Belconnen Canberra Connect shopfront
- Contact Canberra Connect on 13 22 81



For more information visit  
[www.timetotalk.act.gov.au](http://www.timetotalk.act.gov.au)  
 or call Canberra Connect on 13 22 81



Stepping Stone Project  
Territory and Municipal Services  
22-Nov-2013

# Stepping Stone Crossing at Umbagog Park, Latham

Risk Assessment and Improvement Options Report



AECOM

Stepping Stone Project  
Stepping Stone Crossing at Umbagog Park, Latham

## Stepping Stone Crossing at Umbagog Park, Latham

Risk Assessment and Improvement Options Report

Client: Territory and Municipal Services

ABN: N/A

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22-Nov-2013

Job No.: 60304203

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Stepping Stone Project  
Stepping Stone Crossing at Umbagong Park, Latham

## Quality Information

Document Stepping Stone Crossing at Umbagong Park, Latham

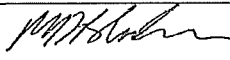
Ref 60304203

Date 22-Nov-2013

Prepared by P Evans

Reviewed by Ben Garnock

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Revision	Revision Date	Details	Authorised	
			Name/Position	Signature
A	17-Sep-2013	Draft Outline	Marc Blackmore Project Manager	
0	23-Sep-2013	Draft Report	Marc Blackmore Project Manager	
1	27-Sep-2013	Draft Report	Jane Peters Project Manager	
2	11-Nov-2013	For Final Submission	Jane Peters Project Manager	
3	22-Nov-2013	For Final Submission	Marc Blackmore Project Manager	

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## Executive Summary

### Introduction

The Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) commissioned this study to undertake a safety risk assessment on the Stepping Stone Crossing at Umbagog Park in Latham. Umbagog is a district park servicing the adjacent suburbs of Latham, Holt, Macgregor and to a lesser extent, Charnwood. The recent development of disability access codes and guidelines plus the signing of inter-government agreements on their implementation has highlighted concerns about the safety of the stepping stone crossing and its compliance with various codes and practices.

### Context

The crossing is approximately 10.5 m long. It consists of 11 concrete units and each unit is 700 mm x 700 mm and on average 500 mm deep. A preliminary hydraulic analysis on the behaviour of the creek around the stepping stones was undertaken to gain an understanding of the water flows and velocities of the creek at various depths of water over the stepping stones.

As the flood waters continue to rise above the stepping stones, the velocity increases until at a depth of approximately 185 mm above the stepping stones in which a pedestrian is at heightened risk of being swept off their feet into the main creek (the water depth in the creek adjacent to the crossings is about 400 mm at these times). This is generally unsafe for normal pedestrians.

### Compliance to Standards and Acts

In November 2011, Eric Martin and Associates undertook an Access Assessment Report on the Latham Umbagog District Park Stepping Stones. The site was audited against AS 1428.1 (2009) and it was found that the longitudinal gradients on approach to the stepping stones were too steep. Likewise, the path crossfalls were also too steep. The audit also found the stepping stones do not provide a continuous access way and there was some unevenness of the surface pavement. The report found the crossing may not comply with AS 1428.1.

Eric Martin proposed there is a potential risk to the ACT Government of a complaint under the Disability Discrimination Act, 1992 (DDA). However, in TAMS Stepping Stone Community Advice Note (July 2013) the ACT Government considers the facility complies with the requirements of the DDA as safe alternative crossing points exist and are signposted. The case is supported by Umbagog Park's parallel pathway system which provides safe access from alternative crossing points.

### Community Perceptions

TAMS undertook a community survey from December 2012 and February 2013. In response to the question 'what is your preferred option for the future for the stepping stone crossing?' approximately 80% of the respondents preferred no change to the current arrangements, 15% preferred constructing a bridge while 5% preferred a low level crossing. The majority of survey respondents were very fond of the crossing with 128 submissions commenting on various aspects of the stepping stones the community values including their unique and informal character as well as the fun people of all ages have using them.

### Risk to Stepping Stone Users

An analysis of risks associated with the stepping stones users was undertaken to inform the risk management measures required. For many users most risks are associated with falling while crossing; the consequences of falls can be moderate (cuts and bruises or possibly broken limbs). However there are two groups of more vulnerable users where the consequence could be more severe; small children who could drown in shallow water and the elderly/very unwell/less-able who are more vulnerable to severe injuries from falls.

TAMS have recently undertaken some improvements to reduce the risk of non-compliance with AS 1428.1 by installing additional signs.

The following three risk management options were investigated and compared in terms of risk reduction and costs:

1. Undertake Improvements to the existing stepping stone crossing (including additional warning signs and adjustments to the existing stones)
2. Install a low level culvert
3. Install a high level bridge

A comparison of the options is provided:

Proposed Options	Approximate Cost inc GST	Advantages	Issues
Adjust existing facilities	\$50,000.00	Retains character	TAMS may be exposed to complaints regarding noncompliance of the stepping stones with AS 1428
		low costs	
		low maintenance	
Low level culvert crossing	\$290,000.00	Ability to provide disabled access at the site. Greater safety for users.	Community loss of current asset
			Medium cost
			May not be aesthetically pleasing
High level bridge crossing	\$675,000.00	Ability to provide disabled access at the site. Greater safety for users.	High construction cost and maintenance

From the table above, 'adjust existing facilities' refers to:

1. Install warning signs, alternate route advisory sign, floodway warning signs and remove centreline pavement markings
2. Add an additional stepping stone mid-point and reduce the lateral shift of the stone adjacent to the creek bank. The lateral changes in the stepping stone alignment add an additional risk for users trying to carry large items such as prams across the stepping stones as their view of the stepping stone to the side is partly obscured by the pram. Also users walking dogs can have difficulty if the dog does not want to turn. The addition of another stepping stone would create more of a 'landing' and improve the safety for these users. Similarly the landing on the western end of the crossing should be adjusted to minimise the lateral shift.

Each of the options would bring a risk reduction to stepping stone users. However, the costs for culvert crossing or bridge options are higher. Overall, the adjustment of the existing facilities options would represent the most practical and probably most community accepted approach.

Additionally, the installation of special play equipment suitable for disabled users in the western playground which is closer to the stepping stones should be avoided; such equipment should only be installed in the eastern playground near the Macrossan Crescent footbridge as this site is accessible for all users.

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 The Study

The Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) commissioned AECOM to undertake a safety risk assessment study on the Stepping Stone Crossing at Umbagog Park in Latham, and advise mitigation measures that could be practically implemented.

### 1.2 Site Location

The Stepping Stone Crossing is located over Ginninderra Creek in the south east corner of Umbagog District Park adjoining the suburb of Latham (see Figure 1-1). Dalley Crescent provides the closest access point to the Stepping Stone Crossing although there is no actual pathway connection to the road.



Figure 1-1 District locality plan

### 1.3 Background

Umbagog is a district park that services the adjacent suburbs of Latham, Holt, Macgregor and to a lesser extent, Charmwood. The park has undergone significant development over the past 25 years with the gradual installation of a network of paths, play areas and adventure play grounds. It is believed that the stepping stone crossing was constructed in 1993 as part of the early development of the Umbagog District Park. The high level footbridge adjacent to Macrossan Crescent was then added to provide a more flood proof crossing. The local community

now sees the Stepping Stone Crossing as an extension of the other activities located along the path network and that it adds character to the area.

The recent development of disability access codes and guidelines has highlighted concerns about the safety of the Stepping Stone Crossing and its compliance with various codes and practices.

## **1.4 The Report**

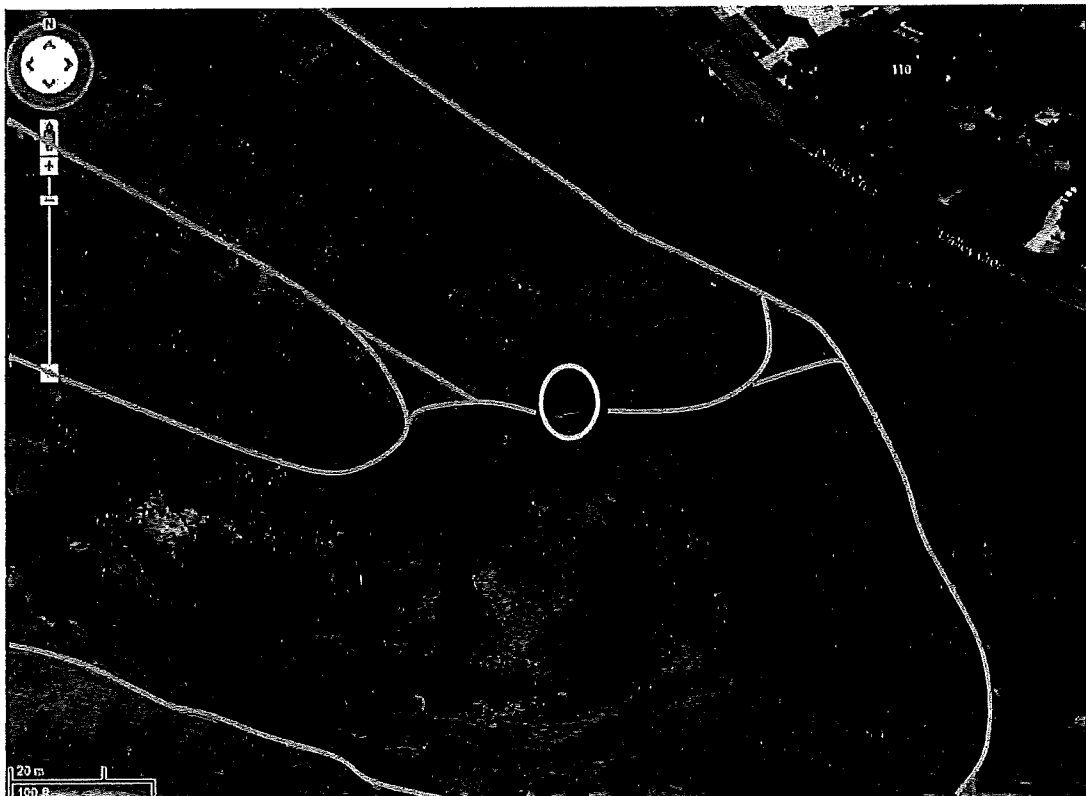
This report details:

- An assessment of existing site conditions (see Section 2.0)
- A summary of previous reports and surveys (see Section 3.0)
- A risk assessment focussed on user safety and on risks to TAMS (see Section 4.0)
- Mitigation options that could be practically implemented for consideration by TAMS (see Section 5.0)

## 2.0 Site Conditions

### 2.1 Description of structure

The stepping stone crossing intersects Ginninderra Creek in an east (Latham side near Dalley Crescent) to west (Macgregor side) (see Figure 2-1) orientation.



**Figure 2-1** Aerial view of the stepping stone crossing

The crossing is approximately 10.5 m long. The stepping stone crossing consists of 11 concrete units (see Photo 1 Figure 2-2). Each unit is 700 mm x 700 mm and on average 500 mm deep. The stones have an exposed aggregate finish which appears to be in good condition. Each stone is expected to weigh approximately 550 kg to 600 kg and are typically stable under foot. However this weight alone would not be adequate to resist flood flows so it is assumed that the stones are pinned into the creek bedrock by some type of anchoring system. The details of this anchoring system are unknown.

Figure 2-2 also shows that the stepping stones alignment is not straight and instead has a 1200 mm lateral shift in alignment at mid-creek plus a small 300 mm lateral shift at the western end.



**Figure 2-2 Photo 1: Stepping stone crossing looking east**

The average gap between the stones is 300 mm (see Figure 2-3). At the time of these photos being taken the top of the stepping stones were sitting 200 mm above the water surface ponding at the site. This was considered to be the approximate 'normal' base flow water surface level. This assumption is based on the creek conditions at the time of inspection in late August where the following observations were made:

1. The catchment was damp but there was no significant rainfall in the past week
2. The creek velocity was negligible
3. Vegetation levels seem to align with normal water surface levels

Photos from other sources (see Canberra Times Photo, Figure 2-10) show similar water surface levels.



Figure 2-3 Photo 2: Gap between stones

## 2.2 Creek Condition

At the site of the crossing, the creek bed is generally hard rock (see Figure 2-4). Some very coarse sand has deposited over this rock bed on the western side of the crossing which creates an informal wading pool for children. Ten metres downstream from the crossing, a reed bed (see Figure 2-5) has grown up across the entire creek thus helping to pool the water around the crossing. This mixture of rock pools and reed beds is typical of many sections of Ginninderra Creek.

Upstream from the crossing, Ginninderra Creek becomes broader and the water is deeper. The banks are lined with reeds and tall grasses. The top of the main creek banks are about 0.9 m to 1 m above the normal water level (see Figure 2-5). Above the eastern bank there is a 30 m to 40 m wide flood plain.



Figure 2-4 Photo 3: Downstream creek conditions



Figure 2-5 Photo 4: View looking upstream

## 2.3 Preliminary Hydraulic Analysis

### 2.3.1 Modelling

There is no existing hydraulic analysis of the behaviour of Ginninderra Creek in this area. Hence a preliminary hydraulic analysis on the behaviour of the creek around the stepping stones was undertaken using basic information from ACTMAPI<sup>1</sup> and some measurements taken at the site to gain an understanding of the water flows and velocities of the creek at various depths of water over the stepping stones. This analysis used the Manning's Formula approach. A conservative Manning's "n" value of 0.015 was utilised for flows to a depth of 250 mm over the stones and 0.035 for flows above this depth.

The values adopted in the Manning's calculations were estimated from observations of the creek conditions. In the immediate vicinity of the stepping stones, the creek bed is smooth/worn rock although just downstream and in particular towards the western bank, there are coarse sand deposits, which indicate that velocities are around 1.0 m/s to 1.2 m/s. The stepping stones have a smooth 'pebblecrete' type finish so in combination with the smooth based rock, a Manning's 'n' value of 0.015 was adopted, along with a hydraulic grade of 0.37 % which was determined as the natural slope of the creek from the ACTMAPI contours. It should be noted that the hydraulic grade and hence the velocity has been calculated from the ACTMAPI contours. At low flows up to 100 mm over the stepping stones, the Manning's calculations give water velocities of 0.8 m/s to 1.1 m/s which are consistent with the site observations of sand deposits. At higher flows, the calculated velocity of 1.5 m/s for a depth of 200 mm over the stepping stones was determined.

These basic flow parameters were input into the stability equation and benchmarked against the normal pedestrian safe limit of <0.4. Table 2-1 compares velocity, flow and pedestrian stability for various depths of flow relative to the top of the stepping stones.

Table 2-1 Pedestrian Stability vs water flow at Stepping Stones

Depth of flow above/below stepping stones	Approximate Velocity	Estimated flow	Stability Constant <sup>1</sup>	Comments
- 200 mm	0 m/s	0 m <sup>3</sup> /s	-	Negligible flow
At top of stone	0.8 m/s	0.5 m <sup>3</sup> /s	0.4	Flow within gaps
+ 10 mm	0.6 m/s	0.4 m <sup>3</sup> /s	0.006	On top of stones
+ 50 mm	0.8 m/s	0.9 m <sup>3</sup> /s	0.04	
+ 100 mm	1.1 m/s	1.9 m <sup>3</sup> /s	0.11	
+ 185 mm	1.4 m/s	3.9 m <sup>3</sup> /s	0.26	
+ 200 mm	1.5 m/s	4.3 m <sup>3</sup> /s	0.30	
+ 250 mm	1.7 m/s	5.8 m <sup>3</sup> /s	0.42	Above pedestrian safe limit of 0.4

1. The 'stability constant' is a measure of the velocity of the water flow multiplied by the depth of the water. A value of >0.4 is considered as "unsafe" to cross where pedestrians can be knocked over by the flow

2. These values are approximate only and would require a detailed analysis using robust engineering surveys, etc.

This hydraulic analysis shows that in normal base flow conditions, the velocity, flow and stability constant are low. When the water level in the gaps reaches the top of the stepping stones, the velocity of the water in the gaps is about 0.8 m/s and the stability constant is about 0.4, meaning that if a pedestrian was to step into this gap, the force of water could sweep them off their feet. However, immediately downstream from the stepping stones, the flow spreads out, the depth of flow drops and the velocity of the water drops. If the creek was running 400 mm deep, the velocity upstream and downstream would be approximately 1 m/s with a stability constant of 0.36. Hence, it would be possible for pedestrians to get out of the water should they fall in, particularly considering that the creek bed is stable rock or coarse sand. This would mean that approximately 200 mm of water would be

<sup>1</sup> ACTMAPI is the ACT Government's Interactive mapping service that can be accessed online at [www.actmapl.act.gov.au](http://www.actmapl.act.gov.au)

travelling over the stepping stones at which time the stones would be unable to be seen due to the muddy water creating a hazard irrespective of the stability constant. The calculations suggest that pedestrians could still cross the stepping stones with over 200 mm of water over them (as the stability constant is less than 0.4) and if they were to lose their footing they could potentially walk out of the flood waters.

The issue with crossing the flooded stepping stones is that the turbidity of the floodwaters will make it difficult to see the actual stepping stones and thus heightens the risk of falling into the gaps. In turn this increases the chances of an injury which will make it more difficult to walk out of the flooded creek, even though the stability constant is approximately 0.36.

### 2.3.2 Event Validation

On the 18 September 2013, 60 mm of rain fell causing Ginninderra Creek to flood to about 700 mm over the stepping stones (see Photo 5 Figure 2-6). The velocity of floating debris measured during the 19 September 2013 flood was estimated at 1.0 m/s to 1.2 m/s and the creek was obviously unsafe to cross. For a depth of 700 mm above the stepping stones, a calculated flow of 1.3 m/s was estimated using Manning's Formula with a Manning's 'n' value of 0.035. Significantly, the turbidity of the water was such that visibility within the water was only about 100 mm which meant that even at low flood levels of around 100 mm over the stepping stones, pedestrians would be unlikely to cross because it would not be possible to see the stepping stones (even though the stability equation would suggest that it was reasonably safe to cross).



Figure 2-6 Photo 5: Creek in flood on the 19 September 2013

## 2.4 Approach Path Conditions

Both approach paths to the stepping stone crossing are bitumen paths. The eastern approach path (see Figure 2-6) from Latham is 1800 mm wide with average grades of about 15% as it descends from the flood plain down to the stepping stone crossing. This path is old but still in acceptable condition with few cracks and trip points.

In regard to AS 1428 (Design for Access and Mobility), this path does not strictly comply with the standard except for its width and clearance from obstruction. The longitudinal grade is well in excess of the 1 in 14 maximum and likewise the cross falls are between 1 in 20 and 1 in 25 which is also in excess of the 1 in 40 allowable maximum.

The western approach path (see Figure 2-6) from Macgregor is slightly narrower with a width of 1200 mm to 1500 mm. Again the longitudinal grade is an average slope of 9% (1 in 11) which is non-compliant with AS1428. The cross fall is about 1.6 % and this complies with the standard.

## 2.5 Relevance of the Crossing in the Access Network

Figure 2-9 shows the main path network within Umbagog Park. The key features of the park path network are the parallel paths running on each side of Ginninderra Creek. There are the following three creek crossings to link the parallel path system:

1. The Florey Drive road bridge at the western end of Umbagog Park (see Figure 2-7).
2. The Macrossan Crescent footbridge opposite Backhouse Street about two-thirds along Umbagog Park to the east (see Figure 2-8).
3. The stepping stone crossing which is midway between the above two bridges.



Figure 2-7 Photo 6: Florey Drive road bridge



Figure 2-8 Photo 7: Macrossan Crescent footbridge

Stepping Stone Project  
Stepping Stone Crossing at Umbagog Park, Latham

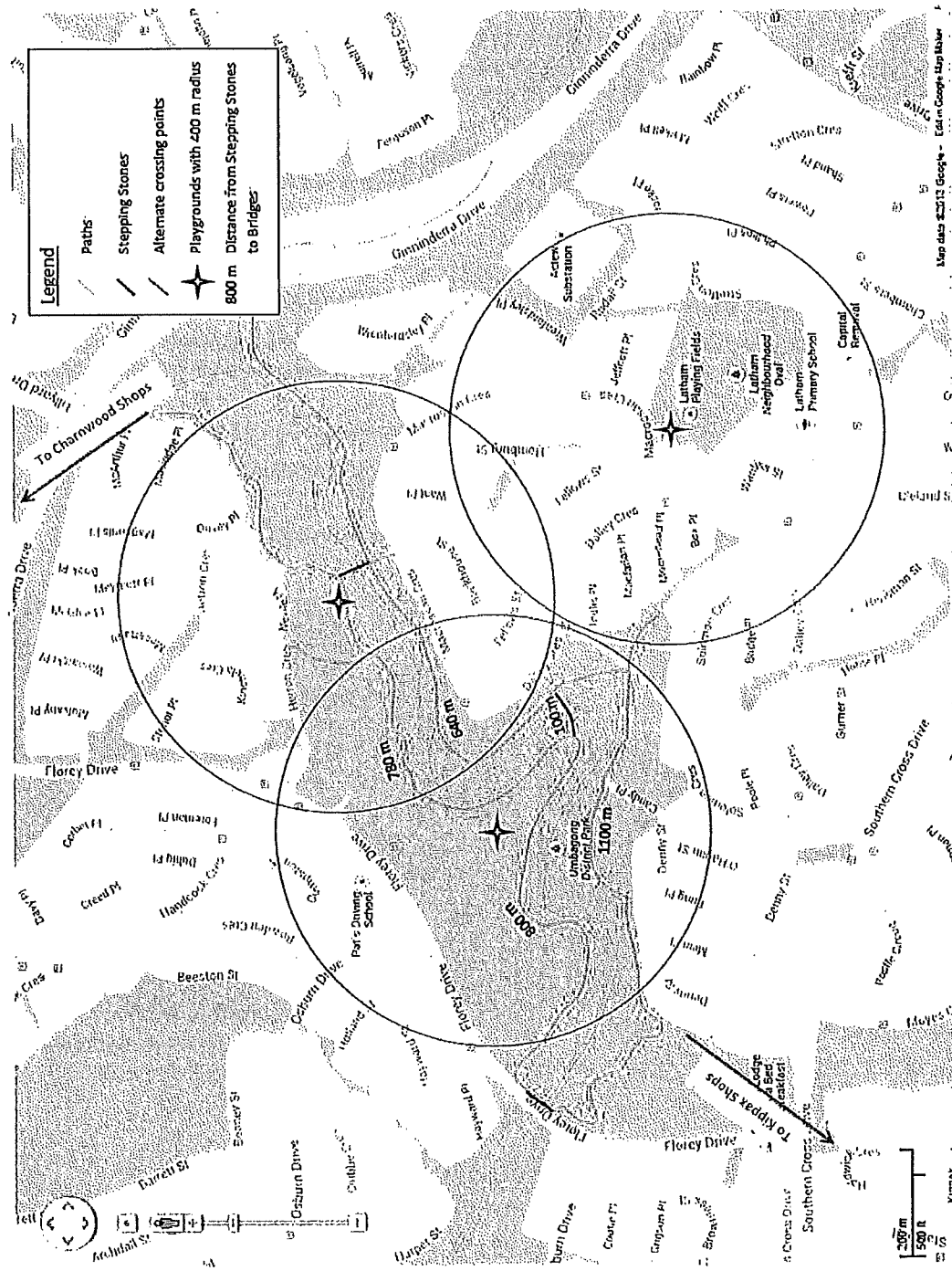


Figure 2-9 Locality plan with accessible routes

Both parallel shared paths connect with the Florey Drive Bridge and the Macrossan Crescent footbridge and are similar in length (see Figure 2-9). Both paths continue through to the Ginninderra Trunk cycleway. For commuter cyclists, there is little advantage in using one path ahead of the other, nor is there a significant benefit in changing paths at the stepping stone crossing.

From site observations the path network and the stepping stone crossing appear to be well utilised for recreational walking/running, walking dogs (see Figure 2-10), cyclists (see Figure 2-11) and parents of children (see Figure 2-12) who are on a 'round trip' between the two formal playgrounds within the park. Brief discussions with users suggest that they see the stepping crossing as a 'third playground' and for adults and older teenagers, a more interesting place than the two formal playgrounds.

The photos (see Figures 2-10 to 2-12) show a variety of people wanting to cross the stepping stones, however it is not possible for wheel chair users and vision impaired people to use the stepping stones.



Figure 2-10 Photo 8 Walking dogs



Figure 2-11 Photo 9: Cyclist crossing



Figure 2-12 Photo 10: Crossing with pram

## 2.6 External Attractions

Umbagog Park is surrounded by residential areas (Macgregor and Latham). There are a number of secondary paths that connect these residential areas to the two parallel paths that follow Ginninderra Creek. At roughly the upstream (eastern) and downstream (western) end of Umbagog Park are the respective shopping centres of Charnwood and Kippax. The parallel path system provides an alternative off road access for pedestrians and cyclists. However as can be seen from Figure 2-9, there is no significant benefit to use the stepping stone crossing to access these shops as the parallel paths finish in approximately the same position. There are also primary schools in Latham and Macgregor which have pathway links to Umbagog Park, but the parallel path system again offers similar distances so there is little benefit to school children to cross at the stepping stones. There is also a bus stop in Dalley Crescent near the stepping stones without a connection towards the creek crossing.

In summary the parallel path system provides generally equal access for surrounding residents to access external shops and school, without the need to use the stepping stone crossing.

## 3.0 Review of relevant documents and reports

### 3.1 Eric Martin Report

In November 2011, Eric Martin and Associates undertook an Access Assessment Report (see Appendix B) on the Latham Umbagog District Park Stepping Stones. The site was audited against AS 1428.1 (2009) and it was found that the longitudinal gradients on approach to the stepping stones were too steep. Likewise, the path cross falls were too steep. The audit also found that the stepping stones do not provide a continuous access way and that there was some unevenness of the surface pavement and therefore the crossing is non-compliant.

Eric Martin proposed four options that will meet DDA compliance

1. Remove the stepping stones and rely on the other bridge crossings
2. Provide a high level bridge
3. Provide a low level compliant crossing
4. Retain existing non-compliant stepping stones but improve signage and negotiate with complainants.

The report concluded that the existing stepping stones may suit some users but does discriminate against other users and is therefore a potential risk to ACT Government of a complaint. However in TAMS Stepping Stone Community Advice Note (July 2013) the ACT Government considers that it complies with the requirements of the DDA as safe alternative crossing points exist and are now signposted.

### 3.2 Community Consultation Survey

Following on from the Eric Martin Report, TAMS undertook a survey from December 2012 to February 2013. This survey put the following seven questions to the residents of West Belconnen and other interested stakeholders

Q1 – What do you like about the stepping stone crossing?

Q2 – What are your concerns with the stepping stone crossing?

Q3 – What is your preferred option for the future of the stepping stone crossing (retain stepping stones, low level crossing, high level bridge)?

Q4 – What are the main reasons for your selected option?

Q5 – Do you have any further comments on the shortlisted options?

Q6 – How often do you use the stepping stone crossing?

Q7 – What suburb do you live in?

The TAMS press release showed that there were 168 submissions. The majority of survey respondents were regular users of the crossing with approximately 25% of the respondents indicating using the crossing daily, 22% using it more than once a week, 20% using it once a week, 23% using it monthly and 10% never using it.

In response to the question 'what is your preferred option for the future for the stepping stone crossing?' approximately 80% of the respondents preferred no change to the current arrangements, 15% preferred constructing a bridge while 5% preferred a low level crossing.

The majority of survey respondents were very fond of the crossing with 128 submissions commenting on various aspects of the stepping stones the community values including their unique and informal character as well as the fun people of all ages have using them.

There were a number of submissions which raised concerns about access for wheelchairs, bikes and prams (14 submissions); safety (13 submissions) and the impact of flooding (12 submissions).

Following the survey, TAMS placed the following Community Advisory Note on their website ([http://www.tams.act.gov.au/about-us/community\\_engagement/recent\\_consultations/stepping-stone-crossing-in-umbagog-district-park](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/about-us/community_engagement/recent_consultations/stepping-stone-crossing-in-umbagog-district-park), last accessed 9 September 2013):

"While some concerns had been raised that the stepping stones discriminate against people with a disability, cyclists and people with wheelchairs or prams, given that safe alternative crossing points exist and are now signposted, the ACT Government considers that it complies with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

As a result of the consultation and investigation undertaken by TAMS, the ACT Government has decided that the current arrangements at the stepping stones will stay in place.

TAMS will undertake a detailed assessment of the safety of the current arrangements and this will be used as the basis for any future improvements at the stepping stone crossing.

The ACT Government would like to thank residents for providing feedback on the future of the stepping stone crossing."

### 3.3 Maintenance History

For the entire 20 year life of the stepping stone crossing, this facility has proved to be very low maintenance. The manager of TAMS Asset Maintenance has reported that crews rarely have to visit the site even after flood events. The AECOM project team visited the site on the 19 September 2013 after 17 September 2013 rainfall events and found that there was some debris on the crossing (see Figure 3-1).



Figure 3-1 Photo 12: Debris after flooding

### 3.4 Accident History

No records are kept of accidents on the stepping stones. It is believed that in the last 20 years, TAMS have only responded to a couple of minor incidents; one of these incidents involved a cyclist. (Ross Schofield, pers. comm.)

### 3.5 Other Public Comments

On 2 July 2013, the *Canberra Times* published an article on the stepping stone crossing (see Appendix C) which featured a local resident that seemed to represent the majority of views emanating from the earlier community consultation process.

The Umbagog Landcare Group in association with the Ginninderra Catchment Group and ACT Government has produced a brochure on the Umbagog District Park. This brochure highlights three walking trails through the park of which two make use of the stepping stone crossing (see Figure 5-1).

### 3.6 Other Experiences

A web search did not reveal any recorded instances where the public has complained about accessibility of stepping stones.

There have been recent instances in the United Kingdom where local authorities have reworked existing stepping stone crossings for health and safety reasons only to find that there was a significant public protest to these improvements. Some of these sites are as follows:

1. In mid-2010, the centuries old stepping stone crossing of the River Dove near Ashbourne in the Derbyshire Dales was topped with new uniformly flat limestone blocks, due to health and safety concerns. The local community is now trying to get these blocks removed. (*The Telegraph, United Kingdom*, 5 August 2010)
2. In Burley-in-Wharfedale, residents have welcomed the repairing of the stepping stones across the River Wharfe. In July 2013 however residents campaigned for a footbridge closer to their village.

## 4.0 Risk Assessment

### 4.1 Challenges and Approach

A risk assessment of the site is detailed in Table 4-1 Risk Analysis. The challenge with this site is that the risk assessment needs to consider the principles of 'voluntary' versus 'involuntary' risks and to balance community perceptions/desires against a duty of care. As discussed in Section 3.7, there were instances where British authorities suffered significant public backlash when they re-engineered similar crossings.

NSW parks services' departments were contacted to get their views and advised that they did not have a set process for assessing risks on trails and generally relied on the experience of the senior ranger in the particular district.

An approach to the risk assessment on trails was found in The United States. The United States Forest Services (USFS) was faced with these conflicting user needs and their own management and maintenance costs when deciding what should be the appropriate type of crossing to be built over a creek. The USFS knew that a bridge would allow people with disabilities and users who were new to the outdoors to experience a trail with little risk; but bridges are expensive to build and maintain. Other more experienced users expect a challenge and may prefer a more natural crossing. The USFS adopted a 'Minimum Tool Philosophy' approach (see Appendix D) which suggests a successful project is one with the least long-term impact while still meeting management (including safety) objectives. The USFS developed the following key questions:

- Do we really need a bridge here? Do we really need to cross here early in the spring?
- Will someone be killed or injured if we don't provide an easier crossing?
- Is this really the best place to cross this stream?
- What alternatives do we have to cross this stream, including not crossing it at all?
- Can we afford this crossing?
- What are the environmental and social consequences of a given type of crossing here?
- Can we commit to long-term inspections and maintenance?
- Who will really care if we don't build (or replace) a bridge?

This Minimum Tool Philosophy approach was adopted to assist in determining appropriate risk management.

### 4.2 Risk analysis

The risk analysis involved identifying a number of risks, along with their causes and consequences. These risks have been assessed using the consequences and likelihood scales and Risk Analysis Matrix shown in Figure 4-1. (this matrix was provided by TAMS).

The assessment assumes the crossing is not in use when water levels rise to more than 100 mm (limit of visibility of stones) over the crossing.



Risk Matrix



**NOTE:** When identifying, analysing and rating risk consideration should be given, but not necessarily limited to, the attached categories of risk and the suggested examples of frequency and consequences.

**HINT:** To help make an assessment of consequence and likelihood risk you should ask the following questions:  
1. What is the consequence that the risk would take in the most normal form should it eventuate?  
2. What is the likelihood of that consequence?

Frequency	Consequence
1	Is expected to occur in next 10 years
2	Is expected to occur in next 10-20 years
3	Is expected to occur in next 20-50 years
4	Is expected to occur in next 50-100 years
5	Is expected to occur in next 100-1,000 years
6	Is expected to occur in next 1,000-10,000 years
7	Is expected to occur in next 10,000-100,000 years
8	Is expected to occur in next 100,000+ years

Asset	Low/Minor	Medium	Major	Catastrophic
Assets	Loss or destruction of assets up to \$2,000	Loss or destruction of assets \$2,000 to \$10,000	Loss or destruction of assets \$10,000 to \$50,000	Loss or destruction of assets greater than \$50,000
Compliance/Regulation	Non-compliance with most policy and standard operating procedures which are not regulated or reported	Non-compliance with most policy and standard operating procedures which are regulated or reported	Non-compliance with policy and procedures which breach business ordinary	Operations shut down by regulatory authority to comply with industry guidelines or standards. Non-compliance could result in future penalties. Operations could result in future business shutdown and service delivery.
People	Minor injury or sickness requiring medical treatment	Significant injury causing hospitalization or multiple medical treatments	Significant injury or multiple serious injuries causing hospitalization	Death or multiple fatality concerning injuries
Environment	Local effect to surrounding area	Local effect to surrounding area	Significant, medium-term environmental impact	Long term environmental harm
Production Services	2-5% of Budget or < \$50K	> 5% of Budget or < \$500K	> 10% of Budget or < \$5M	> 20% of Budget or < \$50M
Technology	Minor disruption to services	Minor disruption to services for up to 1 month	Minor disruption to services for up to 7 days and subsequent disruption of 1 to 2 months	Major disruption to services for more than 1 month. Significant impact on business operations. Possible resulting in major facility closure and data loss.
Reputation & Image	Minor damage to reputation	Minor damage to reputation	Minor damage to reputation	Major damage to reputation
Cultural & Heritage	Low-level irreparable damage to cultural heritage	Medium level irreparable damage to cultural heritage	Significant damage to cultural heritage	Irreparable damage to highly valued items of cultural significance
Business	Low-level irreparable damage to business operations	Medium level irreparable damage to business operations	Significant damage to business operations	Irreparable damage to business operations
System	Minor system failure	Minor system failure	Minor system failure	Major system failure
Other	Minor other	Minor other	Minor other	Major other
Frequency	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40
Consequence	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40
Overall Risk	Low	Medium	High	Critical

Figure 4-1 Risk assessment matrix

Table 4-1 Risk Analysis

Cubaena  
Risk Matrix - Usage of Stepping Stones

QAR-25-TP3

Project Name		Analysis										Controls			
Umbagog Park - Stepping Stones		Analysis										Controls			
00D-000		Analysis										Controls			
Item #	User Group	Element at Risk	Scenario	Existing Controls	Proposed Controls	Severity	Frequency	Consequence	Probability	Risk	Residual Risk	Control	Frequency	Consequence	Risk
1	All users	Slip on water with child	Water spraying from fountain across stones and returning unobstructed	Footway warning sign Sub-access sign	Water or multiple ice threatening injuries	Unlikely	Possible	Medium	Unlikely	Catastrophic	Additional warning and advisory signage	Unlikely	Catastrophic	Medium	
2	All users	Falls into water	People carrying large items across stones and causing other people on stones to become unbalanced	Footway warning sign Sub-access sign	Serious injury causing hospitalization or multiple medical treatments	Possible	Unlikely	Medium	Unlikely	Moderate	Additional warning and advisory signage	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	
3	All users	Falls into water	Sharp edge of stepping stones	Footway warning sign Sub-access sign	Serious injury causing hospitalization or multiple medical treatments	Unlikely	Unlikely	Medium	Unlikely	Moderate	Additional warning and advisory signage	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	
4	All users	Falls into water	Spice or trips on mud / debris / rock outcrops	Footway warning sign Sub-access sign	Serious injury causing hospitalization or multiple medical treatments	Unlikely	Unlikely	Medium	Unlikely	Moderate	Additional warning and advisory signage	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	
5	All users	Falls into water	Water splashes the lateral step in alignment mid-creek	Footway warning sign Sub-access sign	Serious injury causing hospitalization or multiple medical treatments	Possible	Unlikely	Medium	Unlikely	Moderate	Additional warning and advisory signage	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	
6	All users	Falls into water	Person walking dog is pulled over - especially at the mid-creek lateral step	Footway warning sign Sub-access sign	Serious injury causing hospitalization or multiple medical treatments	Unlikely	Unlikely	Medium	Unlikely	Moderate	Additional warning and advisory signage	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	
7	All users	Falls into water	Water is obscured while carrying large (such as picnic) item - especially at mid-creek lateral step	Footway warning sign Sub-access sign	Serious injury causing hospitalization or multiple medical treatments	Unlikely	Unlikely	Medium	Unlikely	Moderate	Additional warning and advisory signage	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	
8	All users	Falls into water	Wet / icy / heavy surface on stones too slippery to walk around creek lateral step	Footway warning sign Sub-access sign	Serious injury causing hospitalization or multiple medical treatments	Possible	Unlikely	Medium	Unlikely	Moderate	Additional warning and advisory signage	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	
9	Children	Child falls into water	Not following parents advice to take care / out of control	Footway warning sign Sub-access sign	Death or multiple life threatening injuries	Unlikely	Unlikely	Catastrophic	Unlikely	Catastrophic	Additional warning and advisory signage to alert parents	Unlikely	Catastrophic	Medium	
10	Elderly / disabled	Unable person falls into water	Some rocks across creek to adjacent path are hidden easily by water - especially at mid-creek lateral step	Footway warning sign Sub-access sign	Death or multiple life threatening injuries	Unlikely	Unlikely	Catastrophic	Unlikely	Catastrophic	Additional warning and advisory signage	Rare	Catastrophic	Medium	
11	Disabled	Falls into water	Wheeled user is helped across stones and rips	Footway warning sign Sub-access sign	Life threatening injury or multiple serious injuries causing hospitalization	Unlikely	Unlikely	Major	Unlikely	Major	Additional warning and advisory signage	Rare	Major	Medium	
12	Cyclist	Falls into water	People carrying bicycles (or other items) across stones and becoming unbalanced - especially at mid-creek lateral step	Footway warning sign Sub-access sign	Serious injury causing hospitalization or multiple medical treatments	Unlikely	Unlikely	Medium	Unlikely	Moderate	Additional warning and advisory signage	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	
13	Cyclist	Slips on edge of creek	Signal on steep down ramp prior to stepping stones	Footway warning sign Sub-access sign	Serious injury causing hospitalization or multiple medical treatments	Unlikely	Unlikely	Medium	Unlikely	Moderate	Remove visible lines from approach path which cause path to be a typical path for bicyclists and advisory signage	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	
14	All users	Slips on edge of creek	Slippery surface of ramp down to stepping stones	Footway warning sign Sub-access sign	Serious injury causing hospitalization or multiple medical treatments	Unlikely	Unlikely	Medium	Unlikely	Moderate	Additional warning and advisory signage	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	
15	All users	Slips away from creek	Stepping stones are spaced and placement not aligned to creek	Footway warning sign Sub-access sign	Serious injury causing hospitalization or multiple medical treatments	Unlikely	Unlikely	Medium	Unlikely	Moderate	Additional warning and advisory signage	Rare	Moderate	Medium	
16	All users	Swampy down creek	Large volume of water suddenly comes down creek while people on stones	Footway warning sign Sub-access sign	Death or multiple life threatening injuries	Rare	Unlikely	Catastrophic	Rare	Catastrophic	Additional warning and advisory signage	Rare	Catastrophic	Medium	

\* - Sub-access sign above: "Prohibition access only". These stepping stones may not provide safe access for all users - No bicycle use, bridge approach, etc.

Table 4-2 Examples of contributing factors leading to risks highlighted in the risk table

<p>Mother carrying pram</p>	<p>Cyclist on crossing</p>
<p>Walking dog</p>	<p>Duck droppings</p>
<p>Flooding</p>	<p>Debris after flooding</p>

The risk analysis table shows that most risks are associated with falls due to various causes. The table is split between various user groups (although with many risks common to all users groups these are grouped under "All Users"). The likelihood of the falls is "possible" which is defined as "could happen and has happened on other projects". We know from the TAMS Asset Maintenance Manager's earlier comments that there have been a couple of known falls in the last 20 years.

The consequences of these falls are expected to be moderate, which is defined as "first aid treatment on-site/ reversible injury requiring hospitalisation". In other words, cuts, bruises or broken limbs. However there are two groups of more vulnerable users where the consequence could be more severe: small children and the elderly/ very unwell/ less-able.

The contributing factors of these falls can be grouped into the following three situations:-

1. Slipping on mud, debris, duck droppings, ice or water
2. Misjudging the edge of the stepping stones especially at the mid-creek lateral change in direction
3. Carrying large objects such as bikes or prams and losing balance or not clearly seeing the stepping stones. Losing control of a dog also comes under this situation

### 4.3 The Minimum Tool Philosophy

As a check and balance against the risk analysis undertaken in the previous section, the following minimum tool analysis was undertaken using questions developed by the USFS (see Appendix D) when it is assessing the need for new stream crossings and applying the responses received from the community consultation. This method of analysis was used as it provides a categorical way of assessing the important (sometimes common sense) questions that are typically reviewed when undertaking risk assessments.

The answers to these minimum tool questions have generally been based on responses from the community survey results and AECOM's assessment. These answers favour the retaining of the existing stepping stone crossing. AECOM has modified some of the questions to better suit an Australian context as follow:-

Q1 – Do we really need to cross here?

A1 – As there is already the existing stepping stone crossing in this location, that is popular with users, it will be considered unacceptable to be removed without replacement with a DDA compliant crossing by the general public. This crossing provides access to the Umbagog Park's western playground and is a part of a popular walking trail.

Q2 – Do we really need a bridge here?

A2 – A bridge/ low level crossing is the only solution that would ensure TAMS is not to be exposed to complaints under the DDA. However there is the question on whether the stepping stone crossing needs to be DDA compliant given there is a parallel path network of similar lengths allowing all users to access normal services such as shops, schools, public transport and friends in other suburbs by using either of the parallel creek paths with similar travel lengths

Q3 – Will someone be killed or injured if we don't provide an easier crossing?

A3 – It is unlikely that someone could be killed while using the stepping stone crossing but it is not impossible. There is an increased risk of trips and falls with the stepping stone crossing that can increase the chance of injury as compared to a bridge crossing.

Q4 – Is this really the best low-level place to cross this stream?

A4 – Yes, this is the best place to cross this stream because the creek bed is rock and so very stable while the water level in normal conditions is relatively shallow (about 200 mm) and very slow moving. In terms of access to playgrounds, this is the best low-level place to cross to the adjacent playground. It has also allowed the Umbagog Landcare Group to create walking trails with different themes.

Q5 – What alternatives do we have to cross this stream in this location?

A5 – The alternatives to the existing stepping stones are a low level culvert type crossing and a high level foot bridge.

Q6 – Can we afford this crossing?

A6 – To add extra mitigation measures (warning and advisory signs, additional stepping stones etc.) to the existing stepping stone crossing will cost approximately \$50,000. For the low level culvert crossing costs could be approximately \$290,000 while the high level bridge will cost approximately \$675,000.

Q7 – What are the environmental and social consequences of a given type of crossing?

A7 – The stepping stones have by far the least environmental impact while the bridge type options will have most significant impacts on the environment. Some 80 % of the respondents to a community survey support the stepping stone crossing with one of the main reasons being they can get close to the creek environment. The stepping stones also have a social element being a community gathering point and a play area for children.

Q8 – Can we commit to long-term inspections and maintenance?

A8 – TAMS Asset Maintenance Group have reported that the stepping stone crossing is a very low maintenance facility. The bridge options would require some annual maintenance.

Q9 – Who will really care if we don't build or replace the crossing?

A9 – The community surveys suggest that 80% of the residents want the stepping stones to be retained.

## 5.0 Risk Management Options

### 5.1 Warnings and Layout Improvement Measures

While TAMS has determined that there are compliant routes of travel adjacent to the stepping stones, the risk analysis of the actual stepping stone crossing identified risks to users that may need to be managed. TAMS will need to:

- Seek further advice and opinion on the appropriate response and its duty of care and obligations
- Balance costs of management against its exposure to the risks including legal action in the event someone is injured while using the facility

Some options are outlined below.

Possible mitigation measures could involve transferring risk to users by providing sufficient warnings and improvements to the park layout. These include:-

1. Install a warning sign on each approach to the stepping stone crossing that should state:-
  - Elderly people and people with limited mobility or vision should not use this crossing
  - Small children to be supervised
  - Do not carry large items including bikes and prams across this crossing
  - Beware of debris, water and ice on crossing
  - Do not cross if there is any water running over the stepping stones
  
2. Associated with the above warning sign should be an advisory sign that gives a "positive message", by describing alternative routes. An option would be a simple map such as the one produced in the Umbagog District Park Brochure (see Figure 5-1) but with the addition of path distances to various other DDA compliant crossings. This map should also describe other points of interest.

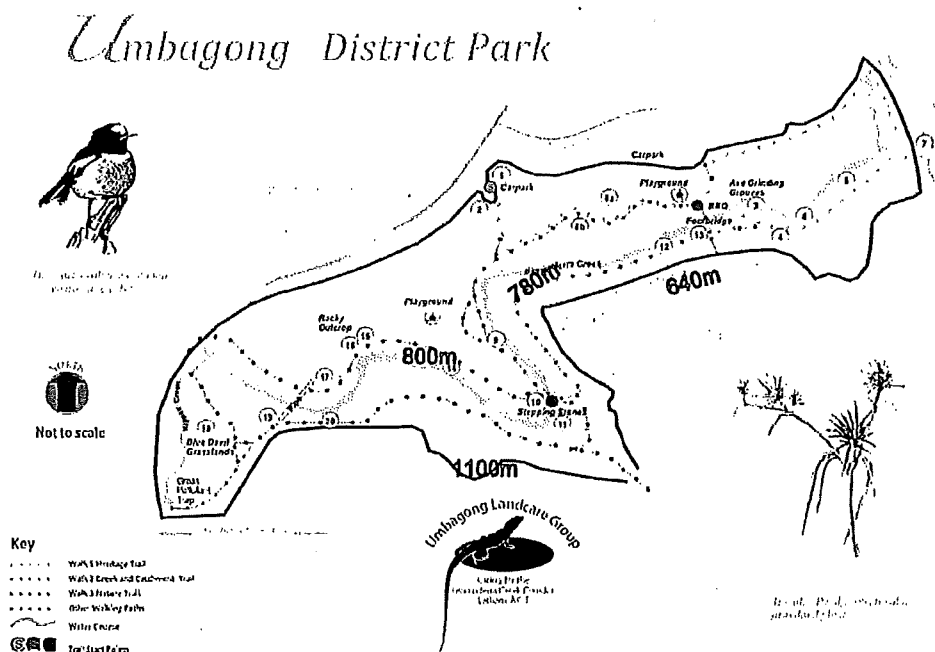


Figure 5-1 Possible Information Sign Showing Path Distances

3. Provide the standard floodway advisory sign (see TAMS Standard Drawing ST-0041) on the Latham side of the creek. There is an advisory sign on the Macgregor side but this is missing on the Latham approach.
4. The centreline pavement markings on the approach path to the stepping stones on the Latham side (see Figure 5-2) give cyclists using the main parallel shared path the impression that they can cycle along this path. These should be removed or altered to eliminate this impression.



Figure 5-2 Photo 13: Centreline cycleway line markings on approach path to stepping stones

5. The lateral changes in alignment (see Figure 2-2) add an additional risk for users trying to carry large items such as prams (see Figure 2-12) across the stepping stones as their view of the stepping stone to the side is partly obscured by the pram. Also users walking dogs can have difficulty if the dog does not want to turn. The addition of another stepping stone would create more of a 'landing' and improve the safety for these users (see Figure 5-3). Likewise, it could be beneficial to modify or rebuild the existing stepping stone on the bank to remove the shift in alignment.

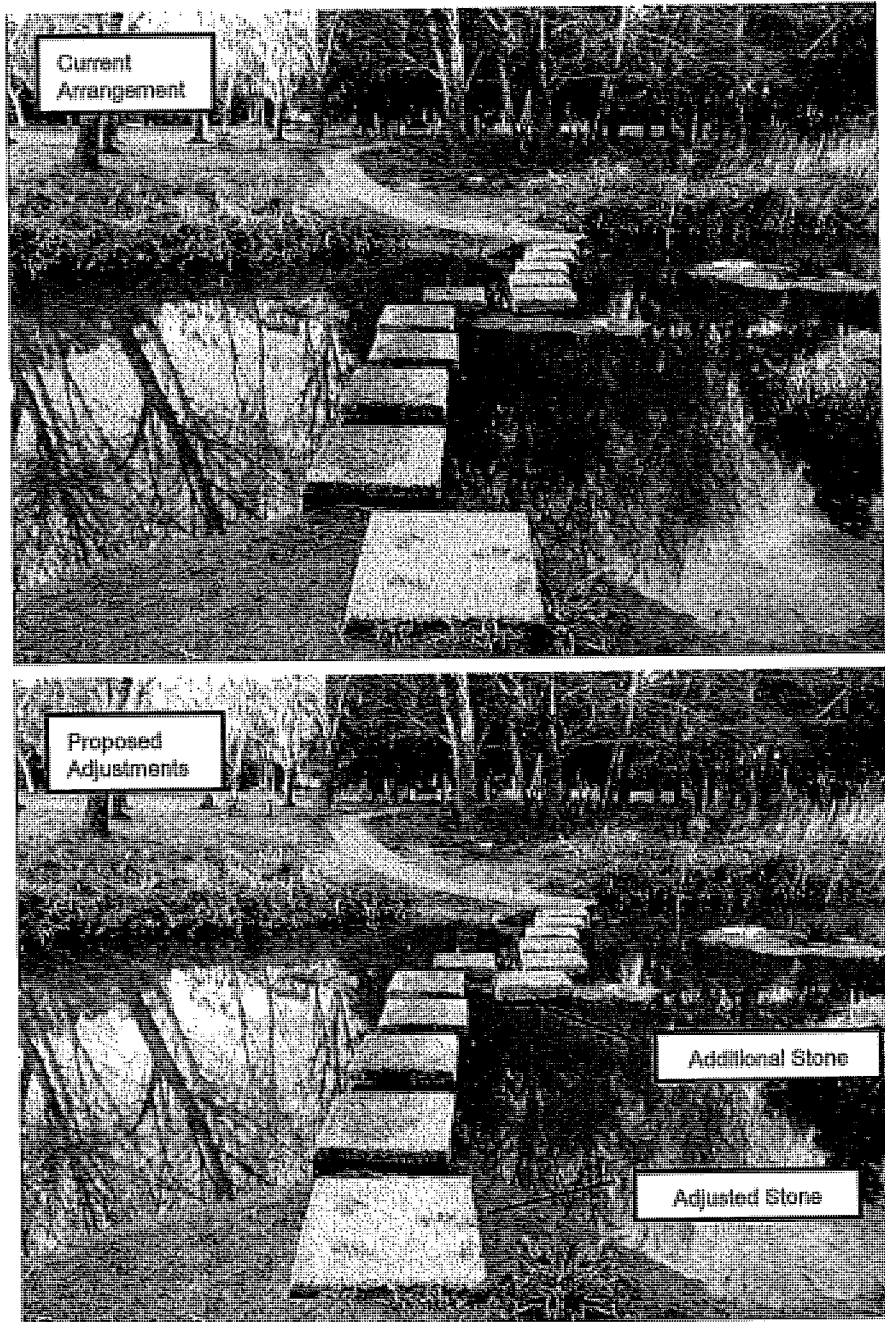


Figure 5-3 Additional stepping stone landings

If these modifications to the existing facilities are undertaken, adjustment of the grades of the approach paths would not be required as other alternate compliant routes of travel exist.

## 5.2 Low level culvert option

A low level compliant crossing could be constructed using four 3000 mm wide x 600 mm high reinforced concrete box culverts on a concrete base cut into the creek bedrock. There would be a 120 mm cast in-situ reinforced concrete deck to provide a smooth ride and to tie the structure together during flood events. A concept view of the low level culvert crossing is shown in Figure 5-4 and Figure 5-5.

The structure would be over 250 mm and less than 1 m high so partial barrier fence would be required. This would pose an additional maintenance issue as handrails would be damaged during floods. The length of the box culvert units could be 2400 mm so the effective path width complies with AS 1428.1.

The top of the crossing will closely match the current natural height of the creek bank. There has been no detailed hydraulic modelling undertaken on this arrangement but it is expected that this structure could manage floods up to the 1 year ARI (Average Recurrence Interval) event. For large flood events, both the culvert and the approach paths will be underwater as they are within the flood plain.

In order to construct the culvert crossing, the creek will need to be partially coffer dammed to enable construction of the concrete base. It may be possible to construct the base slab in two sections while allowing the water run adjacent to the construction area – this would need to be undertaken when there is little forecast rain. Pedestrians will be diverted to the other creek crossings during construction.

The culvert crossing would provide a compliant accessible pathway under DDA and so it would be necessary to also adjust the vertical grades of the existing approach paths to be compliant i.e. no more than 12% grade. This would require an extent of the existing paths to be removed and reinstated after the necessary cut and fill earthworks operations.



Figure 5-4 Outline of low level culvert



Figure 5-5 Plan view of concept box culvert crossing

### 5.3 Bridge option

To minimise maintenance costs, the high bridge crossing should be constructed above the 20 year ARI flood. The structure could be similar to the existing Macrossan Crescent crossing in a single span arrangement with longer approach slabs sitting over part of the flood plain. There would then be an embankment across the remainder of the flood plain which ramps down to the existing parallel paths. Detailed hydraulic modelling will be required to check that the bridge and its associated embankment do not cause the flood level to rise further noting that Dalley Crescent and the adjoining housing is fairly low in this area. A causeway type embankment with flat side slopes would be required to reduce downstream erosion but would create more disturbance during construction. Upstream afflux and stream velocities would also increase due to the impediment of the approach embankments.

In order to construct the bridge, some of the adjacent trees will need to be removed. Additional material will be required to build up the embankments on the approaches to the bridge. The bridge itself would likely comprise a 25 m girder supported by two abutments on rock founded footings with two 10 m long approach slabs connecting the bridge to the paths. The precast girder forming the superstructure would be craned into position. Pedestrians would need to be diverted to the other creek crossings during construction. A conceptual image of the bridge shown in section and plan view is shown in Figure 5-6 and Figure 5-7.



Figure 5-6 Concept bridge in vicinity of stepping stones



Figure 5-7 Plan view of concept bridge with approach slabs to connect to the adjacent pathways

## 5.4 Cost Estimates and Comparison of Options

A preliminary probable order of costs and brief comparison of key implications for the three options is shown in the tables below. These costs are based on industry rates for 2013 and are approximate only.

Table 3 Summary of Costs and Benefits Analyses

Proposed Options	Approximate Cost inc GST	Advantages	Issues
Adjust existing facilities	\$50,000.00	Retains character	TAMS may be exposed to complaints regarding noncompliance of the stepping stones with AS 1428
		low costs	
		low maintenance	
Low level culvert crossing	\$290,000.00	Ability to provide disabled access at the site. Greater safety for users.	Community loss of current asset
			Medium cost
			May not be aesthetically pleasing
High level bridge crossing	\$675,000.00	Ability to provide disabled access at the site. Greater safety for users.	High construction cost and maintenance

Table 4 Adjustment to existing facilities

Adjust existing facilities	Each	Qty	Rate	Cost
Detailed Design & Documentation	LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Site establishment	LS	1	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Additional warning signage	Each	2	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00
Location advisory signs	Each	2	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
Floodway advisory sign	Each	1	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Additional stepping stones inc. shoring	Each	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Adjust existing stepping stone	Each	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Sub-total				\$36,000.00
25% Contingency				\$9,000.00
GST				\$3,600.00
<b>TOTAL inc. GST</b>				<b>\$48,600.00</b>

Table 5 Low level culvert crossing

Low level box culvert crossing	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost
Detailed Design & Documentation	LS	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Site establishment and maintenance	LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Clear and grub	PS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Excavation	LS	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Concrete base constructed in 2 parts	LS	1	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Precast RCBC - 3.6x0.6x2.4 constructed in 2 parts	Each	4	\$5,000.00	\$20,000.00
Concrete top	LS	1	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00

Low level box culvert crossing	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost
Regrading and reinstatement of existing approach paths including finishes to paths	LS	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Partial barrier fence	m	30	\$150.00	\$4,500.00
Sub-total				\$214,500.00
25% Contingency				\$53,625.00
GST				\$21,450.00
<b>TOTAL inc GST</b>				<b>\$289,575.00</b>

Table 6 High level bridge crossing

High level bridge crossing	Unit	Qty	Rate	Cost
Detailed Design including hydraulic analysis	LS	1	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00
Site establishment and maintenance	LS	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Clear and grub and tree removal	PS	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Excavation including construction of embankments	LS	1	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
In-situ Piling	Each	3	\$30,000.00	\$90,000.00
Abutments	Each	2	\$20,000.00	\$40,000.00
25m Bridge beam girder	Each	1	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
Steel Railing	LS	1	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
Approach slabs	Each	2	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00
Sub-total				\$500,000.00
25% Contingency				\$125,000.00
GST				\$50,000.00
<b>TOTAL inc GST</b>				<b>\$675,000.00</b>

## 6.0 Concluding Summary

### 6.1 Compliance of the Existing Crossing to AS 1428.1 (2009)

The prior assessment by Eric Martin (2011) suggests that the existing stepping stone crossing does not comply with Australian Standard AS 1428.1 (2009), Design for Access and Mobility Part 1; General Requirements for Access because:-

1. The longitudinal grades and cross falls on the approach ramps are too steep.
2. The stepping stones do not provide a continuous access way.
3. The stepping stones are only 700 mm wide and therefore are too narrow, needing 1.0 m minimum plus 1.8 m wide passing bays.

Eric Martin also proposed that there is a potential risk to the ACT Government of a complaint under the Disability Discrimination Act, 1992. However in TAMS Stepping Stone Community Advice Note (July 2013) the ACT Government considers that it complies with the requirements of the DDA as safe alternative crossing points exist and are now signposted.

The ACT Government should seek further legal advice on compliance of the crossing with relevant Standards and Acts. TAMS should also avoid installing special play equipment suitable for disabled users in the western playground which is closer to the stepping stones. Such equipment should only be installed in the eastern playground near the Macrossan Crescent footbridge.

### 6.2 Safety and Values of the Existing Crossing

A risk analysis found that stepping stone users are at risk of injury from falls due to various causes. Flood levels about 200 mm above the crossing significantly increase these risks if people are trying to cross the creek which can occur several times per year. For many users the consequences of these falls is expected to be moderate (cuts and bruises or possibly broken limbs). However there are two groups of more vulnerable users where the consequences could be more severe: small children and the elderly/very unwell/less-able. There are options to improve the safety of the crossing (refer to Section 6.3). TAMS may wish to explore whether it may be liable in the event that a user is injured using these facilities to inform its response measures.

While there are issues with the existing crossing, the USFS Minimum Tool Philosophy approach found that it was generally appropriate to have a creek crossing in this location and a stepping stone type crossing was adequate for the majority of users. Also, a community survey completed early in 2013 found over 80% of respondents wanted the stepping stones to be retained due to their environmental qualities, their unique and informal character as well as the fun people of all ages have using them. That said, there are options that could be considered to reduce risks to crossing users and these are described below.

### 6.3 Improvements to the Existing Crossing: Amendments Options

TAMS have recently undertaken some improvements to reduce the risk of a complaint for non-compliance. However to further mitigate the level of risk on the existing crossing it is recommended that the following additional works should be undertaken.

1. Install a warning sign on each approach to the stepping stone crossing that should state:
  - Elderly people and people with limited mobility or vision should not use this crossing
  - Small children to be supervised
  - Do not carry large items including bikes and prams across this crossing
  - Beware of debris, water and ice on stepping stones
  - Do not cross if there is any water running over the stepping stones
2. Associated with the above warning sign should be an advisory sign that gives a "positive message", by describing alternative routes. An option would be a simple map such as the one produced in the

Umbagog District Park Brochure but with the addition of path distances to various other DDA compliant crossings.

3. Provide the standard floodway advisory sign (see TAMS Standard Drawing ST-0041) on the Latham side of the creek
4. Remove the centreline pavement markings on the approach path to the stepping stones on the Latham side as they give cyclists using the main parallel shared path the impression that they can cycle along this approach path.
5. The lateral changes in the stepping stone alignment add an additional risk for users trying to carry large items such as prams across the stepping stones as their view of the stepping stone to the side is partly obscured by the pram. Also users walking dogs can have difficulty if the dog does not want to turn. The addition of another stepping stone would create more of a 'landing' and improve the safety for these users. Similarly the landing on the western end of the crossing should be widened.

#### 6.4 Improvements to the Existing Crossing: Replacement Options

There are two other engineering options that TAMS may consider:

1. To minimise maintenance costs, the high bridge crossing should be constructed at least above the 20 year ARI flood event. The structure could be similar to the existing Macrossan Crescent crossing but it may have longer approach slabs that extend across the floodplain.
2. A low level compliant crossing constructed using four 3000 mm wide x 600 mm high reinforced concrete box culverts on a concrete base cut into the creek bedrock. The structure would be less than 1 m high so partial barrier fence would be required to protect pedestrians. The handrails will tend to be damaged during floods and require additional maintenance. The length of the box culvert units is 2400 mm so the effective path width complies with AS 1428.1. The top of the crossing would closely match the current natural height of the creek bank. In some respects, the low level box culvert option is a better fit within the creek environment than the high level bridge which itself is more flood free but its' approach paths may increase afflux, stream velocities and cause downstream erosion.

#### 6.5 Decision-making support

Table 7 summarises the response options together with potential benefits and order of costs. This may assist TAMS with determining its preferred initiatives in regard to the stepping stones.

**Table 7 Summary of costs and benefits analyses**

Proposed Options	Approximate Cost inc GST	Advantages	Issues
Adjust existing facilities	\$50,000.00	Retains character	TAMS may be exposed to complaints regarding noncompliance of the stepping stones with AS 1428
		low costs	
		low maintenance	
Low level culvert crossing	\$290,000.00	Ability to provide disabled access at the site. Greater safety for users.	Community loss of current asset
			Medium cost
			May not be aesthetically pleasing
High level bridge crossing	\$675,000.00	Ability to provide disabled access at the site. Greater safety for users.	High construction cost and maintenance

## Appendix A

# Australian Human Rights Commission, Advisory Notes on Access to Premises

## Appendix A

# Australian Human Rights Commission, Advisory Notes on Access to Premises



*everyone, everywhere, everyday*

# Advisory Notes on Access to Premises

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Advisory Notes on Access to Premises  
Updated 2011. See note below on Status of these notes

## Contents

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## Note on status of these notes:

These Advisory Notes on Access to Premises were initially developed in 1997 before work commenced on a Disability (Access to Premises – buildings) Standards 2010 (Premises Standards) have now been completed. The Premises Standards include an Access Code for buildings which set out minimum technical deemed-to-satisfy requirements ensures compliance with the general requirements of the DDA on matters covered.

This means that for those matters covered in both the Advisory Notes and the Premises Standards, such as stairways, accessible toilets and hearing augmentation systems the appropriate reference point for minimum requirements is the Premises Standards. The Premises Standards can be found at <http://www.ag.gov.au/PremisesStandards> (<http://www.ag.gov.au>)

A Guideline on the application of the Premises Standards prepared by this Commission can be found at [http://www.hreoc.gov.au/disability\\_rights/buildings/access\\_to\\_premises.html](http://www.hreoc.gov.au/disability_rights/buildings/access_to_premises.html) ([http://www.hreoc.gov.au/disability\\_rights/buildings/access\\_to\\_premises.html](http://www.hreoc.gov.au/disability_rights/buildings/access_to_premises.html))

Some issues that may give rise to barriers to access within buildings, such as some fitout features, fixtures not covered by the Premises Standards so this Advisory Note may still provide useful information to those requiring the best access possible.

## Introduction and acknowledgments

These advisory notes are issued by the Australian Human Rights Commission under section 67(1)(k) of the /

The notes represent views about the meaning and application of section 23 of the Disability Discrimination Act with expertise in access issues, the notes should not be taken to represent the views of any person or organ of the Disability Discrimination Commissioner.

The Disability Discrimination Commissioner would like to thank all the people who commented on the June 11 John Deshon, Architect, Brisbane for his assistance in the development of the first edition of the advisory notes.

These advisory notes were developed specifically to assist people responsible for new or proposed premises:

- this introduction explaining the purpose and status of the advisory notes;
- the advisory notes themselves;
- Appendix A providing information on the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA);
- Appendix B providing information on the relationship between the DDA and the Building Code of Australia;
- Appendix C providing information on existing premises, including heritage buildings.

The Disability Discrimination Commissioner developed the advisory notes in response to requests from people who operate, regulate and use premises for information about their responsibilities and rights under section 23 of the DDA makes it unlawful to discriminate against people with a disability, or their associates, in relation to public entry or use.

People who discriminate against people with disabilities are faced with the possibility of a complaint being made. A complaint by showing that providing equal access would result in an unjustifiable hardship. (For more information on 'unjustifiable hardship' see Appendix A.)

Complying with the Building Code of Australia, or other local planning regulations such as Development Control Orders, will comply with the requirements of the DDA (See Appendix B for a discussion on why).

If a complaint of discrimination is made the Disability Discrimination Commissioner attempts to conciliate an agreement. If not possible the complaint is referred to a formal hearing of the Australian Human Rights Commission (the Commission).

It is only after a thorough investigation of all the relevant issues, such as those listed in Appendix A, that a complaint is referred to the Commission about what would be an unjustifiable hardship in any individual case.

Because of this the Commissioner can only offer advice about what levels of access may reduce the chances of a complaint.

The most common questions the Commission is asked about access to premises are:

"What are the range of access issues I need to consider to ensure access for people with different types of disability?"

"What level of access should be provided to meet the requirements of the DDA?"

These advisory notes aim to assist people to answer those questions.

First, they provide a checklist of all the issues (or elements) the Commission believes should be considered to ensure access for people with different types of disability. These can be found in sections 5.1 through to 5.24.

Second, in each of the above sections the advisory notes provide a number of 'Reference points and notes' to assist people to better understand the design options open to them when trying to achieve equitable access to a premises.

## 2. Legal status of this advice

Comments on the first edition of the advisory notes suggested some people felt compliance with the specific requirements was a requirement. These advisory notes are not regulations or 'deemed-to-satisfy' building requirements and do not have the force of law. They were prepared by the Commissioner to assist people to understand their already existing responsibilities and rights.

### 3. How this advice can assist

People who design, build, own, manage, lease, operate, regulate and use premises already have responsibility that failure to provide equal access is unlawful, unless to do so would impose an unjustifiable hardship.

Until such time as there are nationally negotiated DDA Standards in the area of access to premises (a DDA Standard (AS) - for information on DDA Standards see Appendix B), those responsible for premises have to particular circumstances, amounts to access at a level sufficient to meet their responsibilities under the DDA. This causes both for those responsible for premises and those who use them, and supports the broad communitarian DDA and Building Code regimes through making of disability standards.

Those responsible for premises can best provide access by making it a central part of a design brief. Decisions to increase access increase the likelihood of successful complaints.

In making decisions about access the Commissioner advises people to consider the following:

- these advisory notes;
- the new Building Code of Australia (BCA).

The new BCA is due for release in mid 1998. Until the release of the new BCA the most relevant reference point is regulation document RD 97/01 - Provisions for People with Disabilities (RD97/01) available from the Australian Government Printing Service, Canberra, ACT 2601. Tel. 06 213 7298, Fax. 06 213 7287. The new BCA will also be available from the above website.

The proposals in the new BCA are designed to make it more consistent with the DDA and have been developed in consultation with all parties. This has included extensive work with Standards Australia on revising various Australian Standards (AS) to include some of the specifications previously found in AS 1428.2. When details of those parts of AS 1428.2 that are covered by the new BCA, but which could give rise to complaints. (See Appendix B for a full discussion of this issue) the advisory notes will be revised to reflect those changes.

Compliance with a new BCA will improve access and help reduce the likelihood of complaints. There are however some new BCA provisions which do not have the support of all parties involved in negotiations. In addition there are a number of provisions covered by the BCA, but which could give rise to complaints. (See Appendix B for a full discussion of this issue)

Neither the proposed new BCA nor these advisory notes represent the final word in the debate about access to premises. However, it is less likely that premises will be subject to complaints.

### 4. Consultation with people with disabilities and access experts

Consultation with people with a range of disabilities and access experts is an essential part of achieving the objectives of the DDA. It should be seen as complementing appropriate consultation processes in the design and management of buildings.

### 5. Advisory notes on access to premises

- 5.1 Interpretation of key terms
- 5.2 Continuous accessible path of travel
- 5.3 Infrastructure
- 5.4 Carparks
- 5.5 Stairways, escalators and moving pathways
- 5.6 Approaches and entrances
- 5.7 Lifts
- 5.8 Ramps
- 5.9 Sanitary facilities
- 5.10 Fixed seating venues

- 5.11 Ground and floor surfaces
- 5.12 Listening systems for hearing augmentation
- 5.13 Controls
- 5.14 Furniture and fitments
- 5.15 Symbols and signs
- 5.16 Warnings and alarms
- 5.17 Lighting
- 5.18 Background sound levels
- 5.19 Public address systems
- 5.20 Residential buildings other than homes
- 5.21 Emergency egress
- 5.22 Discrimination arising from management and maintenance practices
- 5.23 Discrimination by staff
- 5.24 Use of chemicals and materials

Each section of these advisory notes identifies an issue (or element), such as carparks, controls, ramps or signs, who design, build, own, lease, operate or manage premises when providing access for people with different types of disabilities.

The first part of each section states a broad outcome that people should be trying to achieve if they wish to provide access. The Commission recognises that access requirements for individuals can be very different and that the broad outcome should be read in the context of the provision for unjustifiable hardship in the DDA.

The second part of each section, under the heading 'Reference points and notes', provides information on a range of issues to be considered, along with the proposals in the new BCA, when making decisions about access issues. (See the BCA which gives information on how to get a copy of the BCA).

## **5.1 Interpretation of key terms**

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### ***Continuous accessible path of travel***

These advisory notes define a continuous accessible path of travel as an uninterrupted route to or within premises, services and facilities. It should not incorporate any step, stairway, turnstile, revolving door, escalator, hazard or barrier that cannot be safely negotiated by people with disabilities.

### ***Premises***

The definition of premises in the DDA extends to the whole of the built environment. It includes:

- existing buildings, including heritage buildings;
- new or proposed buildings;
- transport systems;
- car parks, sports venues, pathways, public gardens and parks.

Although the definition of premises in the DDA includes existing buildings these advisory notes are aimed on providing access to new buildings however a section in Appendix C concerning existing buildings.

(The notes specifically relate to those buildings that come under Class 1b, and Class 3 through to Class 10 buildings. Access requirements for Class 1a buildings (a detached house, terrace or similar) or Class 2 buildings (a building with multiple units) although legal opinion suggests that the common areas associated with Class 2 buildings may in some cases be not accessible.)

## **5.2 Continuous accessible path of travel**

5.2.1 People who design, build, own, lease, operate or manage premises should achieve equitable access for people who are unable to use premises to which the public is entitled or allowed to enter or use are connected by a network of continuous accessible paths of travel.

5.2.2 A continuous accessible path of travel should extend to all amenities and levels in a building to which the public is entitled or allowed to enter or use, including basements and carparks.

5.2.3 A continuous accessible path of travel should be the most commonly used and direct path of travel. If an alternative route is required, it should be provided.

5.2.4 Managers and operators of premises should ensure management practices are in place to maintain a continuous accessible path of travel.

### **Reference points and notes**

5.2.5 For information on design features relating to a continuous accessible path of travel, people who are unable to use premises should refer to the specifications covering aspects of a continuous accessible path of travel in the new BCA as well as the following:

- circulation spaces (Clause 6.2)
- width of path (Clause 6.4)
- passing spaces (Clause 6.5a)
- changes in level (Clause 6.6)
- walkways ramps and landings (Clause 8)
- ground and floor surfaces (Clause 9)
- handrails and grabrails (Clause 10)
- doorways and doors (Clause 11)
- lifts (Clause 12)
- tactile ground surface indicators (Clause 18.1)
- street furniture (Clause 27)
- lighting (Clause 19)
- gateways and checkouts (Clause 28)

5.2.6 For specifications relating to the provision of resting places and seating along continuous accessible paths of travel, people who are unable to use premises should refer to AS 1428.2 Clause 7(e).

5.2.7 Note that the needs of ambulant people with mobility disabilities who require public seating higher than 520 mm should be addressed. See Note 1 in AS 1428.2 Clause 27.2 which refers to a height of 520 mm.

5.2.8 For specifications relating to design features to ensure access for blind people or people who have a visual impairment, people who are unable to use premises should refer to AS 1428.2 Clause 18.1. (Excessive use of tactile indicators at every minor change in direction is not considered appropriate - see 5.2.9 below).

5.2.9 Note that as part of the Australian Building Codes Board review of the Building Code of Australia the Australian Building Codes Board proposals are available in the new BCA. Tactile ground indicators should be limited to potential hazardous situations such as stairs, ramps, escalators, boardwalks, etc.

5.2.10 Clearly topographical features such as steep hills and the features of facilities such as bush walking trails should not be a barrier to a continuous accessible path of travel throughout the whole route.

5.2.11 Note that passing spaces should be provided on a continuous accessible path of travel when that path is narrow, as indicated in AS 1428.2 Clause 6.5a. The frequency of provision of passing spaces should be considered in the context of the path.

5.2.12 Note that, as part of the Australian Building Codes Board review of the Building Code of Australia, State further research on the dimensions of a 'wheelchair footprint'. This research will have implications for future c spaces and width of walkways, ramps and landings.

5.2.13 Note the need to ensure that accessible facilities along a continuous accessible path of travel, including lifts and hearing augmentation systems where they exist, are clearly signposted.

5.2.14 Note that the DDA requires access be provided to all levels of buildings and all facilities and services ( impose an unjustifiable hardship. This includes all public facilities such as lounges, TV rooms, eating areas, t restaurants. (See also section 5.7 Lifts). The new BCA suggests some very specific circumstances under wh buildings might be limited.

### 5.3 Infrastructure

5.3.1 Elements in the streetscape, including those at the property alignment/boundary, should be designed a path of travel.

5.3.2 These elements include:

- kerb ramps
- gutter crossings
- road cambers
- footpath crossfalls
- gradient of path of travel
- street furniture
- hazards obstructing the path of travel, including overhead obstacles
- surfaces
- bus stops and shelters
- traffic signals at pedestrian crossings
- pontoon wharves
- signage and directional information
- warnings

5.3.3 Features such as stairways, escalators, street furniture, landscaping and moving pathways, where they should not obstruct a continuous accessible path of travel.

#### *Reference points and notes*

5.3.4 Note that the responsibility for most public infrastructure rests with a public authority. It is, however, Inci required to install or renew infrastructure.

Whoever is responsible for the construction and/or management of an infrastructure element is likely to be re

5.3.5 For specifications relating to ramps, kerb ramps, crossings consider AS 1428.2 Clause 8.

5.3.6 For specifications relating to street furniture and possible obstructions to an accessible path of travel cc

5.3.7 For specifications relating to ground and floor surfaces on a continuous accessible path of travel consic

5.3.8 For specifications relating to symbols and signs consider AS 1428.2 Clauses 16 and 17. (Excessive use such as entry to individual offices spaces is not considered appropriate).

5.3.9 Note the need for colour contrast in signs and warnings.

5.3.10 For specifications relating to the provision of tactile ground surface indicators consider AS 1428.4 in c Clause 18.1. (See 5.2.9 above).

5.3.11 Consideration should also be given to the design features and specifications covering aspects of Infra:

#### **5.4 Carparks**

5.4.1 Carparks should contain car parking space(s) designated for vehicles used by people with disabilities.

5.4.2 Designated accessible parking spaces should be located at the closest point to each accessible entrance. Identify the accessible space and the location of accessible entrances.

5.4.3 There should be a continuous accessible path of travel from each such space to the closest accessible

##### *Reference points and notes*

5.4.4 For specifications relating to accessible car spaces, including vertical clearance specifications consider

5.4.5 Note that provision should be made to ensure adequate vertical clearance from the street, through the parking spaces within a carpark.

5.4.6 Note that the percentage of designated spaces for vehicles used by people with disabilities is one of the however currently no agreement with the disability advocacy sector on the proposals in the new BCA and this negotiation and research.

#### **5.5 Stairways, escalators and moving pathways**

5.5.1 Stairways, escalators and moving pathways/travelators should be accessible for all those people who v

5.5.2 Stairways, escalators and moving pathways/travelators, where they exist, should not be part of a contin located adjacent to the continuous accessible path of travel.

##### *Reference points and notes*

5.5.3 For specifications relating to stairways, including reference to open risers, consider AS 1428.2 Clauses

5.5.4 Consideration should also be given to the design features and specifications covering aspects of stairw

#### **5.6 Approaches and entrances**

5.6.1 All public entrances should be accessible to all users.

##### *Reference points and notes*

5.6.2 For specifications relating to doors and circulation spaces at doorways consider AS 1428.2 Clause 11.

5.6.3 For specifications relating to controls on doors consider AS 1428.2 Clauses 23.2 and 23.3.

5.6.4 Note the need to ensure doormats do not obstruct a continuous accessible path of travel recessed door access difficulties.

5.6.5 Note the need to have a level landing between the door and the end of any ramp.

5.6.6 Note that heavy doors should be avoided as they are difficult for people to operate and that there should be an accessible path of travel.

5.6.7 Note that section 23 of the DDA refers to access requirements where the 'public or a section of the public'. Access requirements could be different for some entrances, such as loading docks, plant room, transformer room, etc. being served and where the public would not normally be allowed or entitled to go. It should be noted however that this is covered by the DDA section 15 and failure to provide equitable access for employees with disabilities may re

5.6.8 Consideration should also be given to the design features and specifications covering aspects of approach to BCA.

### **5.7 Lifts**

5.7.1 All passenger lifts and other forms of vertical transport should serve all users and allow for independent operation within the lift.

#### *Reference points and notes*

5.7.2 Note in the case of staff operated lifts independent operation may not always be required.

5.7.3 Note that to ensure equity of access and safety information concerning level and direction of travel in lift should be audible. In the case of audible information verbal indication of travel direction (eg 'up' 'down') is preferred to a visual indicator. Clause 8.6.3 (b). Announcements should be available at all landings to convey direction of travel, ie 'up' or 'down'. Lift car should inform the user within the lift car.

5.7.4 For specifications relating to lifts consider AS 1428.2 Clause 12. Note that AS 1735 parts 7, 12, 14 and 15 apply.

5.7.5 Consideration should also be given to the design features and specifications covering aspects of lifts at BCA.

### **5.8 Ramps**

5.8.1 All ramps should be safe and convenient for all users.

#### *Reference points and notes*

5.8.2 Note that ramps should not be relied upon as the prime or only method of moving from one level to another. The use of ramps should be limited to the minimum length of a continuous path of travel and consequent fatigue. There is no national specification concerning ramps. Vertical transport should be utilised to change levels exceeding a certain height.

5.8.3 For specifications relating to ramps consider AS 1428.2 Clause 8.

5.8.4 Note that any camber or cross fall should be kept to the absolute minimum necessary to ensure drainage.

5.8.5 Consideration should also be given to any design features and specifications, where they exist, covering ramps.

### **5.9 Sanitary facilities**

5.9.1 Where there is only one sanitary facility provided it should be suitable for use by people with disabilities.

5.9.2 Where there are multiple sanitary facilities at any location at least one should be suitable for use by people with disabilities.

#### *Reference points and notes*

5.9.3 Note that the first accessible sanitary facility should be a unisex facility to ensure a person requiring assistance of someone of the opposite gender.

5.9.4 For specifications relating to sanitary facilities for use by people with disabilities consider AS 1428.2 Clause 12.

5.9.5 Note that some ambulant people with disabilities may find the standard cubicle size in a block of cubicles too low. Where multiple sanitary facilities are provided consider providing a cubicle with specifications found in AS 1428.2 Clause 12. Whilst research is to be undertaken on specifications relating to accessible facilities for ambulant people consider providing a cubicle with specifications found in AS 1428.2 Clause 12 in each toilet block where there is more than one facility.

5.9.6 Consideration should also be given to the design features and specifications covering aspects of sanitary facilities.

### **5.10 Fixed seating venues**

5.10.1 A range of choices of seating position in terms of location, level, price and sightlines should be provided.

5.10.2 A continuous accessible path of travel should be provided to the seating spaces and seats identified for those seats to points of egress and amenities such as toilets.

5.10.3 A non-discriminatory booking system should be established and ticket retail outlets should be accessible.

#### ***Reference points and notes***

5.10.4 The design, and management of fixed seating venues is crucial to ensuring equal access, amenity and provision, it is recommended that consultation takes place with access experts and representative organisations.

5.10.5 Note that design of fixed seating venues should also provide for continuous accessible paths of travel with mobility aids or who may wish to transfer from wheelchairs.

5.10.6 Note issues relating to 'Listening systems for hearing augmentation' in section 5.12 below.

5.10.7 For specifications relating to seating spaces described in 5.10.2 above consider AS 1428.1 Clause 1. Access at this level will allow for use by 80% of people who use wheelchairs. Increased size would permit a further 20%.

5.10.8 For specifications relating to podiums and stage areas consider AS 1428.2 Clause 26.2. Access to the path of travel, which may include the use of ramps or automated vertical transport systems.

5.10.9 For venues without fixed seating, but where removable seating is being provided, consideration should be given to equitable access.

5.10.10 Note that a non-discriminatory booking system would allow for allocated spaces not in use to be used for other purposes.

5.10.11 Consideration should also be given to the design features and specifications covering aspects of fixed seating.

### **5.11 Ground and floor surfaces**

5.11.1 Ground and floor surfaces should be safe and traversable by all users.

#### ***Reference points and notes***

5.11.2 For specifications relating to ground and floor surfaces on a continuous accessible path of travel consider AS 1428.1 Clause C13.

5.11.3 Note the need to ensure safety through the use of slip resistant surfaces.

5.11.4 Note the need to avoid the use of spongy underlay where carpet is used.

### **5.12 Listening systems for hearing augmentation**

5.12.1 A hearing augmentation system should be available in assembly buildings, and in all places where sound announcements are made.

5.12.2 Areas where augmentation is provided should be identified by the symbol for hearing access. Information should be provided on whether it is turned on or off.

#### ***Reference points and notes***

5.12.3 For specifications relating to hearing augmentation, consider AS 1428.2 Clause 21.2. 5.12.4 For specifications relating to hearing augmentation, consider AS 1428.2 Clause 21.3.

5.12.5 Consideration should also be given to the design features and specifications covering aspects of hearing augmentation.

5.12.6 Note the need to ensure that if only part of an assembly area is covered by a hearing augmentation system for people who use a wheelchair who may also require access to a hearing augmentation system.

### **5.13 Controls**

5.13.1 All users should be able to access and use any controls used by the public, such as door handles, push buttons.

#### ***Reference points and notes***

5.13.2 For specifications relating to controls consider AS 1428.2 Clause 23.

5.13.3 Consideration should also be given to the design features and specifications covering aspects of controls.

### **5.14 Furniture and fitments**

5.14.1 All users should be able to access and use built-in furniture and fitments which should not infringe on the rights of other users.

5.14.2 Note that the following list is only a guide - not necessarily inclusive - to built-in furniture and fitments in the surrounding built environment, such as in parks, to which this provision should apply:

- reception counters
- gateways and checkouts
- public telephones
- drinking fountains
- vending machines (including automatic teller machines)
- tea and coffee making facilities
- work, reading and writing surfaces
- security devices
- bus shelters
- ticket validation gateways
- vista/viewing platforms
- fishing platforms
- built-in computerised information systems
- library shelves
- planter boxes
- public BBQ's
- post boxes
- tables and seating
- refuse receptacles

#### ***Reference points and notes***

5.14.3 For specifications relating to built-in furniture and fitments consider AS 1428.2 Clauses 23, 24, 27, 28, and 29. If furniture or fitment is not prescribed, consider the requirements of AS 1428.2 for similar built-in furniture and fitments.

5.14.4 Note that in premises such as shops and supermarkets management practices could be introduced to ensure that stock normally kept on higher shelves is accessible.

5.14.5 Note that where facilities such as telephones are provided consideration should be given to ensuring that they are accessible to people who use a typewriter (TTY) services.

5.14.6 Note the need to ensure where fixed tables and seating is provided in parks or around picnic areas that people can access the table.

5.14.7 Consideration should also be given to the design features and specifications covering aspects of furniture relevant.

### **5.15 Symbols and signs**

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5.15.1 Signs and symbols should inform all users.

#### ***Reference points and notes***

5.15.2 For specifications relating to symbols and signs consider AS 1428.2 Clauses 16 and 17. (Excessive use such as entry to individual offices spaces is not considered appropriate).

5.15.3 Note the need for colour contrast of numbers letters or symbols from their background.

5.15.4 Consideration should also be given to the design features and specifications covering aspects of symbols

### **5.16 Warnings and alarms**

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5.16.1 Warnings and alarms should alert and inform all users.

#### ***Reference points and notes***

5.16.2 For specifications relating to warnings and alarms covering audible, visual and auxiliary systems consider

5.16.3 For specifications relating to the provision of tactile ground surface indicators consider AS 1428.4 in clause 18.1. (See 5.2.9 above).

5.16.4 Note that in the case of audible alarms verbal alarms are preferred to non-verbal audible alarms.

5.16.5 Note the need to ensure visual and tactile vibration alarm systems are available in a range of hotel/mc

5.16.6 Consideration should also be given to the design features and specifications covering aspects of warnings relevant.

### **5.17 Lighting**

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5.17.1 Illumination levels should serve all users.

#### ***Reference points and notes***

5.17.2 For specifications relating to lighting consider AS 1428.2 Clause 19.

5.17.3 Note that lighting that tends to flicker should be avoided.

5.17.4 Note that to facilitate lip reading and/or interpreting clear, even illumination is required for the faces of

5.17.5 Consideration should also be given to the design features and specifications covering aspects of lighting relevant.

### **5.18 Background sound levels**

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5.18.1 Wherever possible background sound levels should not impede hearing.

#### ***Reference points and notes***

5.18.2 For specifications relating to maximum background sound levels consider AS 1428.2 Clause 20.

### **5.19 Public address systems**

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5.19.1 Ensure that public address systems serve all users.

5.19.2 Ensure that a hearing augmentation system and a visual communication system supplement public ac

**Reference points and notes**

5.19.3 For specifications relating to the height of letters, illumination, location and background contrast consi

5.19.4 For specifications relating to hearing augmentation systems refer to section 5.12 above.

5.19.5 Note the need to ensure that PA speaker systems are clear and intelligible.

5.19.6 Consideration should also be given to the design features and specifications covering aspects of publi  
BCA where relevant.

**5.20 Residential buildings other than homes**

5.20.1 The term "Residential buildings other than homes" includes:

- a. a boarding house, guest house, hostel, lodging-house or backpackers accommodation;
- b. a residential part of a hotel or motel;
- c. a residential part of a school;
- d. specific purpose accommodation for older people, people with disabilities or children;
- e. a residential part of a health care building which accommodates staff.

5.20.2 All users should have access to and within individual accessible accommodation in residential building

5.20.3 Aim to provide the same degree of choice of individual accessible accommodation in terms of location

**Reference points and notes**

5.20.4 Consideration should also be given to the design features, specifications and rate of provision of acce  
the new BCA.

5.20.5 Note issues relating to circulation space (see 5.1 above) and furniture and fitments (see 5.14 above) s  
management of accommodation.

**5.21 Emergency egress**

5.21.1 All users should be provided with a means of egress from premises to a place of safety.

5.21.2 People with disabilities should be provided with the same level of protection as other premises users c

**Reference points and notes**

5.21.3 Management practices concerning egress for people with a disability are a vital part of achieving prote

5.21.4 Note that the Australian Building Codes Board review of the Building Code of Australia is discussing th

- Places of refuge be considered as a way of achieving this protection.
- Designers be provided with options for developing cost effective solutions.
- Existing spaces such as lift lobbies or toilets may be used as all or part of a safe refuge.

A place of refuge is defined as a place which offers protection from a fire (or other) hazard for people with dis

Options for consideration when designing for egress are:

- equal independent access to all required egress; or
- independent access to a place of refuge from which later evacuation is possible without entering the area  
emergencies; or

- a combination of both.

Issues being considered by the ABCB include:

1. Location of place of refuge to allow for later evacuation without entering fire area
2. Fire ratings for places of refuge.
3. Dimensions of places of refuge, exits and paths of travel to places of refuge.
4. Location and type of latches on doors in places of refuge.
5. Travel distances to places of refuge.
6. Signage in relation to locating places of refuge.
7. Exiting from places of refuge.
8. Communications from places of refuge.

Further research is being undertaken on the proposals for egress found in RD 97/01 and it is likely egress is the BCA in 1999.

### **5.22 Discrimination arising from management and maintenance practices**

Inadequate or inappropriate management, maintenance and housekeeping practices can make otherwise accessible enough to design and build for access, there are many instances where a failure to effectively manage and maintain discriminatory barriers. For example:

- use of accessible toilets as storage areas or multipurpose rooms where fixtures inhibit circulation space;
- allowing gradual deterioration of lighting levels;
- locking of accessible toilets or lifts at any time when premises are still in use;
- allowing shrubs beside pathways or overhanging trees to become overgrown;
- allowing surfaces to become dangerously worn or slippery;
- allowing signage to deteriorate

### **5.23 Discrimination by staff**

Access to premises is not solely concerned with technical specifications. A failure on the part of staff to respect requirements of people with disabilities can lead to significant discriminatory barriers. If staff are not adequate customer relations they could act in a way that effectively denies a person with a disability access to, and use of discrimination being lodged.

People who own, lease, operate and manage premises may be liable if staff behave in a discriminatory way if diligence and taken reasonable precautions to avoid discrimination occurring. They should consider the following discrimination by staff against people with disabilities:

- make all relevant staff aware of the need to avoid discrimination. Depending on the nature of the enterprise statement on compliance with anti-discrimination law and more direct advice to staff;
- take reasonable measures to give staff sufficient information and expertise to make services and facilities; may include the provision of formal training;
- establish and promote effective complaints handling procedures regarding discrimination and ensure that people with disabilities and appropriately advertised.

### **5.24 Use of chemicals and materials**

#### **Use of chemicals and materials**

A growing number of people report sensitivity to chemicals used in the building, maintenance and operation of the premises effectively inaccessible to them. People who own, lease, operate and manage premises should minimise reactions to chemicals:

- the selection of building, cleaning and maintenance chemicals and materials, in accordance with relevant safety regulations and established standards;
- provision of adequate ventilation and ensuring all fresh air intakes are clear of possible sources of pollution;
- minimising use of air fresheners and pesticides.

## Appendix A

### 6.1 The Disability Discrimination Act

#### 6.2 Examples of discrimination

#### 6.3 Unjustifiable hardship

### 6.1 The Disability Discrimination Act

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The DDA is a Federal anti-discrimination law. Section 3 of the DDA sets out its objects:

- to eliminate, as far as possible, discrimination against persons on the ground of disability;
- to ensure, as far as practicable, that persons with disabilities have the same rights to equality before the law;
- to promote recognition and acceptance within the community of the principle that persons with disabilities have the same rights and duties as other members of the community.

The DDA covers a wide range of areas including employment, education, sport and recreation, the provision of goods, services, accommodation and access to premises. All levels of government, businesses, trade unions, non-government organisations and individuals have responsibilities under the DDA. The law seeks to stop discrimination against people with any form of disability, including physical, psychiatric, neurological, learning, disfigurement or the presence in the body of a disease causing organism.

Section 5 of the DDA expresses the general principle that discrimination occurs when a person with a disability is treated less favourably than a person without a disability would be treated in the same or similar circumstances. The DDA is concerned therefore with preventing and eliminating discrimination on the ground of disability.

Section 4 of the DDA provides the following definition:

"premises" includes:

- a structure, building, aircraft, vehicle or vessel; and
- a place (whether enclosed or built on or not); and
- a part of premises (including premises of a kind referred to in paragraph (a) or (b)).

The DDA covers existing premises, including heritage buildings, those under construction and future premises, but also anything in the built environment including car parks, sports fields, parks, pathways and transport systems.

People who believe they have been discriminated against because of their disability may make a complaint to the Australian Human Rights Commission. The Commission attempts to resolve these complaints by conciliation, however if conciliation is not possible a complaint can be referred to the Australian Human Rights Tribunal for a formal hearing and a decision.

Section 23 of the DDA states:

23. (1) It is unlawful for a person to discriminate against another person on the ground of the other person's disability or association with a person with a disability:

- by refusing to allow the other person access to, or the use of, any premises that the public or a section of the public is entitled to use (whether for payment or not); or
- in the terms or conditions on which the first-mentioned person is prepared to allow the other person access to, or the use of, any premises that the public or a section of the public is entitled to use (whether for payment or not); or
- in relation to the provision of means of access to such premises; or
- by refusing to allow the other person the use of any facilities in such premises that the public or a section of the public is entitled to use (whether for payment or not); or

- e. in the terms or conditions on which the first-mentioned person is prepared to allow the other person the use of such premises or facilities;
- f. by requiring the other person to leave such premises or cease to use such facilities.

(2) This section does not render it unlawful to discriminate against a person on the ground of the person's disability if:

- a. the premises are so designed or constructed as to be inaccessible to a person with a disability; and
- b. any alteration to the premises to provide such access would impose unjustifiable hardship on the person.

Section 23 provides a defence of "unjustifiable hardship". A person or organisation may claim that providing access is impossible, impose major difficulties or involve unreasonable costs.

## 6.2 Examples of discrimination

Examples of possible areas of discrimination that could result in a complaint by a person with a disability, the

- failure to provide equitable physical access to a building or the different levels of a building
- inadequate signage for a person with a vision impairment using facilities within a building
- failure to ensure facilities such as vending machines or counters within buildings are accessible or usable
- failure to provide visual indicators of emergency situations such as evacuations
- failure to provide suitable parking facilities for vehicles used by people with disabilities
- failure to provide a clear and safe access path in a building or on a pathway
- requiring a person with a mobility disability gain access through a distant side entrance
- failure to provide equal amenity to people who have disabilities through inadequate management practice
- failure to provide hearing augmentation systems in an auditorium that has a sound amplification system
- failure to provide non-discriminatory booking systems in theatres.

## 6.3 Unjustifiable hardship

As indicated earlier in these notes, section 23 of the DDA allows discrimination where to do otherwise would impose unjustifiable hardship is explained in section 11 of the DDA:

11. For the purposes of this Act, in determining what constitutes unjustifiable hardship, all relevant circumstances are to be taken into account including:

- a. the nature of the benefit or detriment likely to accrue or be suffered by any persons concerned; and
- b. the effect of the disability of a person concerned; and
- c. the financial circumstances and the estimated amount of expenditure required to be made by the person concerned; and
- d. in the case of the provision of services, or the making available of facilities - an action plan given to the person concerned.

Where equitable and dignified access to, and use of, premises has not been provided people with disabilities in certain circumstances, a defence of unjustifiable hardship may be available to the respondent. Circumstances relevant to the defence include:

- technical limits;
- topographical restrictions;
- the effect, both positive and negative, on other people of providing the required level of access, for example, the use of ramps or trolleys and the staff;
- safety, design and construction issues;
- the benefit for people with disabilities; and
- the costs involved in providing access.

The Commission is from time to time asked for its opinion of what constitutes unjustifiable hardship. It is not possible to identify unjustifiable hardship that would apply in all cases. What would be an unjustifiable hardship to one person or

The provisions of section 11 require assessment on a case-by-case basis and the Commission can only determine following a formal investigation into all relevant factors in the complaint handling process.

The best way to avoid complaints would be to attempt to ensure access issues are addressed as fully as possible. The advisory notes are intended to assist in achieving that objective.

## Appendix B

### 7.1 The relationship between the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and the Building Code of Australia (BCA) 7.2 BCA revision process, a DDA Disability Standard and the future of this advice

#### 7.1 The relationship between the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and the Building Code of Australia (BCA)

People who design, build, own, lease, operate or manage premises already have responsibilities under the DDA relating to access. (For more information on the DDA see appendix A.) They also have to comply with the BCA which reference the Building Code of Australia (BCA).

The BCA applies only to new buildings or those buildings undergoing significant refurbishment or alteration.

The DDA is a general law about eliminating discrimination against people with disabilities. It deals with employment and other subjects. It focuses on outcomes rather than specifications.

Part of the DDA is concerned with non-discriminatory access to premises and the equitable and dignified use of premises. "Premises" are defined in the DDA as including buildings and anything in the broader built environment including transport systems. (For the DDA definition of premises see appendix A.)

The Commissioner considers there are a number of areas that need to be addressed when providing equitable access:

- those parts of buildings that the current BCA access provisions cover, such as sanitary facilities, controls and lifts;
- those parts of buildings that the current BCA access provisions do not cover, such as furniture and fittings;
- those parts of the built environment outside of buildings that the BCA access provisions do not cover such as transport systems;
- management and maintenance issues that can have a significant effect on the use of premises.

The difference between the requirements of the BCA and responsibilities under the DDA has led to concern about what operators, managers and lessors need to do and what users of premises can expect in terms of access. The building approval authorities need to consider when approving developments that might subsequently attract a complaint.

The Australian Building Code Board (ABCB) has recently launched BCA 96 which replaced BCA 90 in all states. BCA 96 has been developed over a number of years and includes many changes to the access provisions. In an attempt to achieve greater consistency with the DDA, completing a further review of the access provisions (which will in effect be amendment 3 and replace the BCA 96 access provisions) are likely to be a 1999 Update.

While a successful outcome to this process will reduce the likelihood of designers, builders, owners, managers and lessors receiving complaints, it is unlikely to result in a code or set of 'national standards' that will address all the issues relevant to access.

Even though a revised BCA will be more consistent with the DDA, compliance with a new BCA will not automatically prevent a complaint.

#### 7.2 BCA revision process, a DDA Disability Standard and the future of this advice

Support has been widely expressed for a DDA Standard covering access to premises. Many feel that a DDA Standard is needed.

A DDA Standard dealing comprehensively with access to, and use of, premises would become the reference the legal yardstick used in the complaint handling process; compliance with a DDA Standard would be regarded as a DDA Standard could incorporate, or refer to, a suitably revised BCA. Where an access issue is not dealt with (e.g. furniture, warnings and management issues) a DDA Standard would need to have additional provisions to cover these issues.

The Federal Attorney-General has the power to make DDA Standards. This power does not at present extend to the development of a DDA Standard to be developed covering access to premises, an amendment to the DDA is required. This would be a high priority for the Government. If the DDA is amended, an appropriate draft DDA Standard would require broad consideration before being presented to Parliament for adoption.

It would be desirable for the revision of the BCA access provisions and any DDA amendment processes to be completed as quickly as possible. It could be necessary to extend these advisory notes in some form to cover a further interim period.

It would be desirable for the revision of the BCA access provisions and any DDA amendment processes to be completed as quickly as possible. It could be necessary to extend these advisory notes in some form to cover a further interim period.

## Appendix C

### 8.1 Notes concerning access in existing premises

#### 8.2 Management and operation of premises to provide access

#### 8.3 Action plans

#### 8.4 Heritage buildings

### 8.1 Notes concerning access in existing premises

The Advisory Notes on Access to Premises developed by the Disability Discrimination Commissioner are aimed at operators, managers and lessors of new (proposed) premises.

Their purpose is first to create a checklist of the issues (elements) which need to be considered when designing premises for people with a disability and, second, to provide notes and references to assist in the process of making decisions about access.

The advisory notes state clearly that they aim to clarify the law as it currently stands and are not legally binding. Anyone who builds, owns, leases, operates or manages premises should note that the DDA allows for a defence of unjustifiable hardship. Full access would prove too demanding because of, for example, technical, topographical, safety or financial reasons.

Existing premises, including heritage buildings, are covered by the DDA. Where equitable access is not provided, a complaint may be subject to a complaint.

Existing premises can also call upon a defence of unjustifiable hardship in the event of a complaint.

Unjustifiable hardship may be more apparent in relation to existing premises than for new (proposed) premises. Designing a building to ensure easy access through the entrances will be different from the costs associated with buildings which were not designed for access.

For that reason the advisory notes were developed for new (proposed) buildings. The information may, however, be useful for existing premises, particularly when reviewing leases or considering major refurbishment.

The advisory notes provide people who are responsible for premises with a broad checklist which could be used to plan to address access issues over a period of time. Such an assessment would assist in identifying possible improvements to access are possible and help establish their feasibility. For example: an assessment of access to a fixed or portable hearing augmentation system in a place of assembly in an existing building could be readily undertaken.

### 8.2 Management and operation of premises to provide access

In some circumstances, because of structural, technical or topographical limitations, or because the provision of access might amount to an unjustifiable hardship, it may still be possible to address access issues in some way by providing alternative access arrangements.

the actual service operating out of premises. Those aspects that cannot be addressed by changes to the premises, management or operation of the premises. By doing so a service provider would be reducing the likelihood of:

- a legal practice may operate out of a two storey building in which it is not yet feasible to install a ramp or arrange the practice so that all common areas such as the library, staff amenities room and a number of ground floor which can be made easily accessible;
- a small clothing retail outlet may operate out of a building with an inaccessible mezzanine level. It may be on a floor which gives examples of the range of stock held on the mezzanine level and provide assistance to a person on an upper level;
- a number of Government Departments operating out of an inaccessible building might choose to operate from a central location for enquiries whilst waiting for a lease to expire before moving to accessible premises. Successful access provisions including physical access, hearing augmentation, personal assistance and TTY facilities;
- rather than provide all information in Braille a restaurant with a regularly changing menu might provide the menu on a small personal tape machine, or provide assistance in the form of a menu reader through a trained staff member;
- if physical changes to a heritage building to provide access to a second storey would destroy a significant cultural asset, a video presentation on the upstairs might be provided on the ground floor;
- policies and staff training may be put in place to provide direct assistance to a person with a disability until such time as it is provided.

### 8.3 Action plans

The DDA provides for the development of an Action Plan which sets out how a service provider will identify a problem and how it could be developed which shows how premises might be modified and management practices changed over time. The Commission considers the matters that must be considered by the Commission when a claim of unjustifiable hardship is assessed. An Action Plan under section 61 of the DDA and lodge it with the Commission. An Action Plan can be revised at any time over a number of years.

The Commission recently received an application from an organisation for exemption from coverage by the DDA. The Commission stressed the relationship between an Action Plan and unjustifiable hardship. The Commission's Discrimination Commissioner, who wrote:

"The best way of avoiding complaints of discrimination under the DDA is not to engage in unlawful discrimination. The historical legacy of practices, buildings and laws often makes it difficult to avoid, or even to identify, discriminatory practices. Facilitating processes of change. People who use these processes receive statutory recognition for their efforts. The DDA, which incorporates Action Plans as an element of unjustifiable hardship and can therefore contribute to a defence is not automatic: it is the substance of an Action Plan, not the mere fact of its making, that will count. Nonetheless, for most service providers an Action Plan will be no less insurance against complaint than the burden of public interest that is required for an exemption application to succeed."

For owners, operators, managers and lessors of existing premises, an action plan could be a significant step towards addressing complaints.

The essentials of an Action Plan as set out in section 61 of the DDA are:

- policies and programs to achieve the objects of the DDA
- how these policies and programs to persons will be communicated to your staff
- a review that identifies any discriminatory practices
- reasonable goals against which the success of the action plan may be measured
- the way in which policies and programs will be evaluated
- appointment of persons within the service provider to implement the action plan.

## 8.4 Heritage buildings

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Any heritage buildings or premises to which the public has a right of access are subject to the DDA. A failure by people with disabilities could result in a complaint. Registration of a heritage building on the Register of National, state or local conservation laws or regulation, do not in themselves amount to an exemption from the DDA.

In the event of a complaint consideration of a defence of unjustifiable hardship would include an assessment of the features that give a building its heritage value.

For a full discussion of the issue of heritage buildings and access issues refer to a report "Access to Heritage" prepared by Eric Martin of Cox Architects and Planners, 22 Jardine Street, Kingston, ACT 2604. The report was prepared for the Commission and sponsored by ACROD.

## IMPORTANT UPDATE

The new BCA 96 (including Amendment 4 which was adopted in January 1999) is available from the Australian Building Codes Board, Canberra, ACT 2601. Tel. 06 213 7298, Fax. 06 213 7287. The RD 97/01 document referred to on pages 2 and 3 is a point.

The ABCB is continuing to consult on a number of changes to the BCA 96 to make it consistent with the DDA amendments.

Standards Australia has also completed a revision of AS 1428.1 (1998) which contains specifications referred to in the DDA.

The Commission is also developing a [Frequently asked Questions \(//www.humanrights.gov.au/disability\)](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/disability) Home page which will provide further information on access to premises issues.

Appendix B

**Eric Martin & Associates,  
Access Assessment  
Report**

AECOM

Stepping Stone Project  
Stepping Stone Crossing at Umbagog Park, Latham

Appendix B

**Eric Martin & Associates,  
Access Assessment  
Report**





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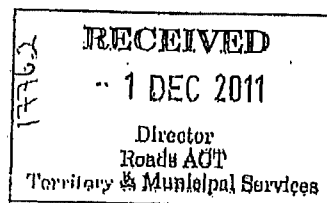
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11Q8

28 November 2011

Roads ACT  
 Locked Bag 2000  
 CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

Attention: Tony Gill *B3/14/11*  
Tony.Gill@act.gov.au



Dear Tony

## LATHAM UMBAGONG DISTRICT PARK STEPPING STONES

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This report advises on the stepping stones in Umbagong District Park particularly

- Advice on the codes/standards that apply to the external access way.
- Comment on the suitability of the stepping stones and access to them.
- Comment on possible options.

### 2. CODES AND STANDARDS

Outside buildings and defined properties the National Construction Code (NCC) 2011 Volume 1 Building Code of Australia (BCA) does not strictly apply. However the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1992 applies to all facilities including external facilities such as Umbagong District Park. The Disability (Access to Premises-Buildings) Standard 2010 also does not strictly apply as like NCC 2011 (Vol 1 BCA) it applies to buildings.

However, the best guide as to what will satisfy the DDA and reduce the risk of a complaint under the DDA is to adopt AS1428.1 2009 Design for access and mobility Part 1: General requirements for access – New building work. We therefore recommend that access ways in Umbagong District Park should meet AS1428.1.

### 3. AUDIT OF EXISTING STEPPING STONES

Refer attached sketch of the area and photographs.

In summary the non conformances are:

- Gradients closer to the creek exceed 1 in 20 (5%) and are therefore too steep ✓
- Some cross falls exceed 1 in 40 (2.5%) and are therefore too steep ✓
- Gravel is not a suitable surface and dirt on other surfaces is also not suitable
- Stepping stones do not provide a continuous access way
- Unevenness of surface with rocks, steps between finishes are hazardous and not access compliant

The stepping stones do not provide a suitable access way and will therefore discriminate against a number of users.

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- 2 -

EMA

#### 4. POSSIBLE OPTIONS

Possible options that will meet DDA and provide solutions are:

- 4.1 Remove stepping stones and rely on other crossing points. This means further travel for all users to cross the creek. (Note compliance of path to other crossings has not been assessed)
- 4.2 Provide a bridge over the creek. This could be made access compliant.
- 4.3 Provide a low level crossing with complying paths/ramps to it. This will require some lengthening of paths, construction of ramps and a solid low level crossing. It will not be accessible in flood and high water times.
- 4.4 Do nothing and accept it does not provide access for all. This could lead to complaints under the DDA at which time options etc would be discussed/negotiated/resolved. Signage on accessible routes would inform users better and reduce risks.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

The existing stepping stones may suit some users but does discriminate against other users and is therefore a potential risk to ACT Government of a complaint under the DDA.

There are options available but each has potential difficulties/costs as outlined above.

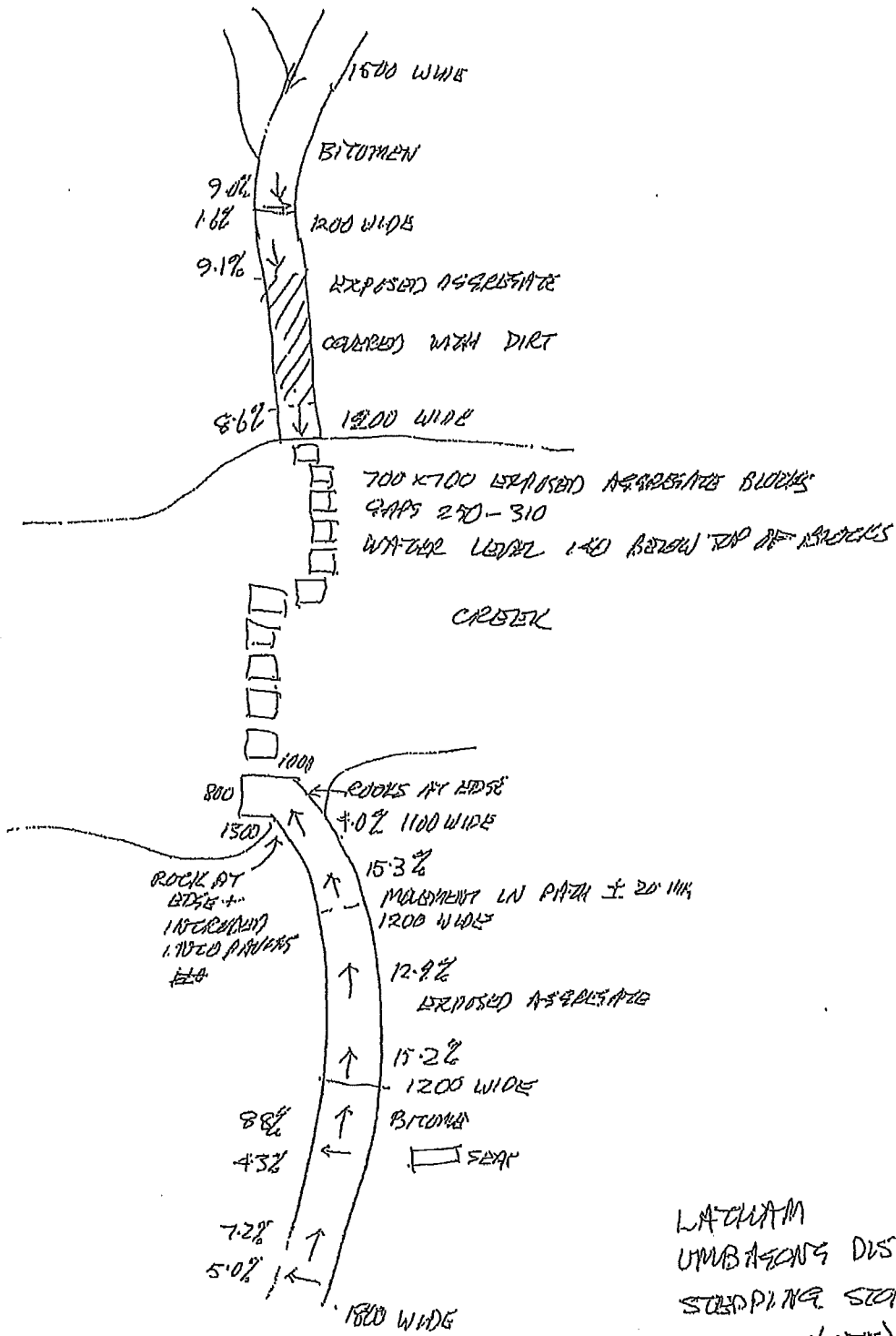
Yours faithfully,



Eric J Martin  
Director

Registered Architect  
ACT376 VIC5150  
NSW6991 WA1663  
QLD3391

Encls: Sketch  
Photographs



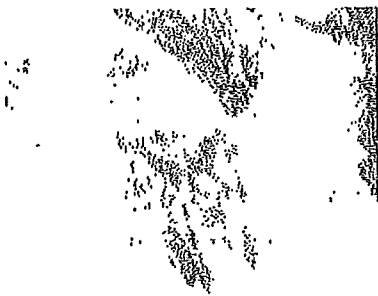
LAFAYETTE  
 UMBAGONG DISTRICT PARK  
 STOPPING STONES  
 AUDIT (LINES)  
 PREPARED BY ERIC WARREN



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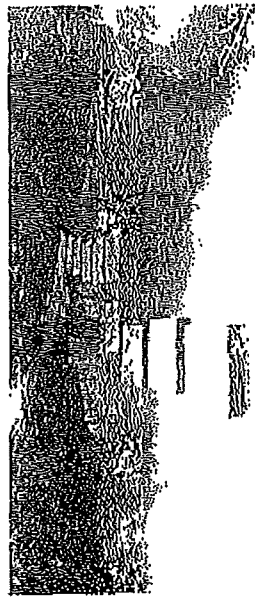
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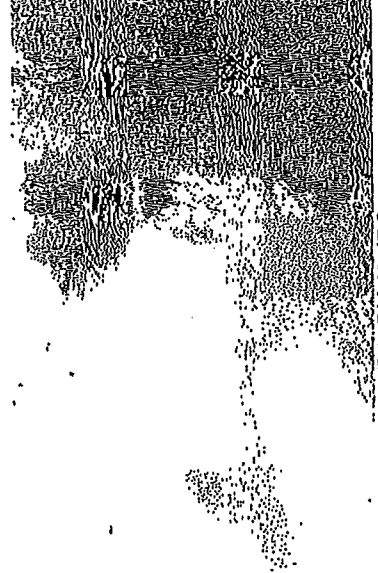
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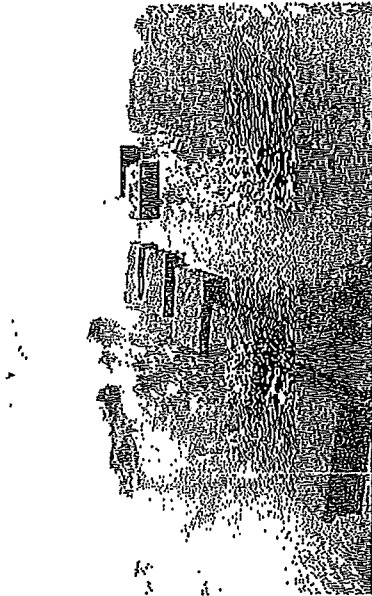
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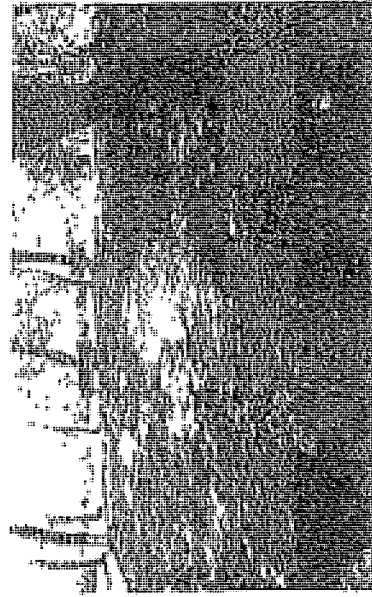
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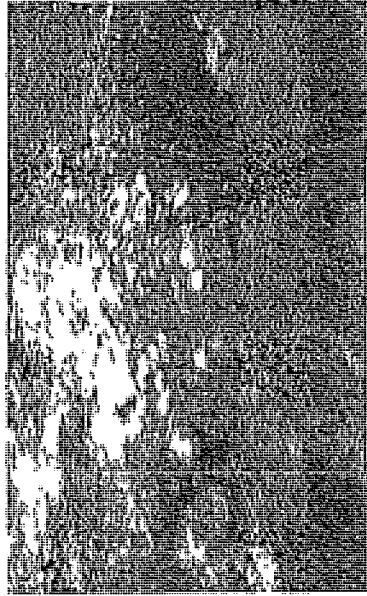
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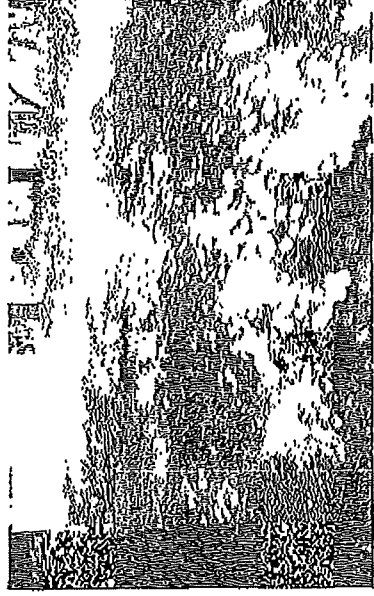
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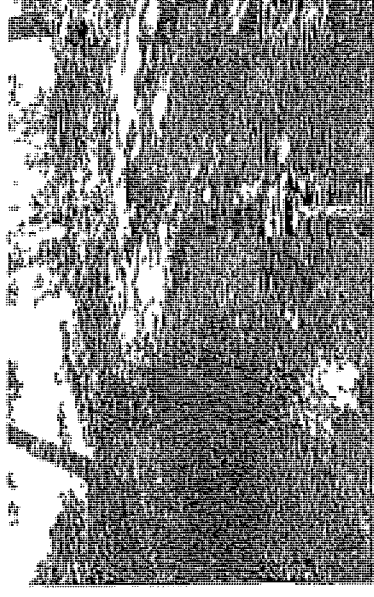
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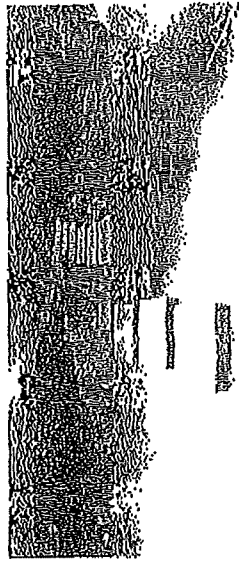
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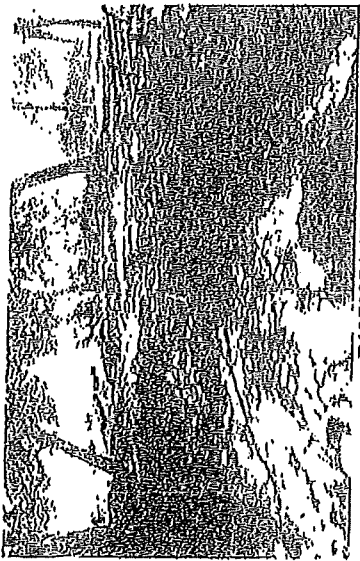


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28/11/2011

AECOM

Stepping Stone Project  
Stepping Stone Crossing at Umbagog Park, Latham

Appendix C

# Article in Canberra Times



**ACT**  
Government 20921  
Territory and Municipal Services

153  
POSTED  
11.2.14

SCANNED  
Ben & Darwin

[REDACTED]  
LATHAM ACT 2615

Dear [REDACTED]

**STEPPING STONE CROSSING AT UMBAGONG PARK REPORT**

Please find attached a copy of the Stepping Stone Crossing at Umbagong Park, Latham Report for your perusal.

A number of recommended works as outlined at section 5.1 on page 22/23 were identified within the report and these works will be progressed by the end of the financial year.

I am happy to discuss any queries you have and can be contacted on telephone number 6207 6588; email: [tony.gill@act.gov.au](mailto:tony.gill@act.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

*Tony Gill*  
Tony Gill  
Director  
Roads ACT

10 February 2014

*cc Ben McHugh / Darwin Zeta Roads ACT*

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Appendix D

# US Forestry Minimum Tool Philosophy

# Wet June, with more rain to come



Umbagog Park officials had fun at Latham's recent meeting for the project. The stepping stone bridge crosses the stream at Umbagog Park in Latham. Photo: AECOM

By Bill Wrenn

Confidence here had a wet and rainy June — breaking a streak of dry weather with some light drizzle. The month's average rainfall was 1.4 inches, just below the long-term average of 1.5 inches. The annual rainfall for the last 10 years has averaged 1.3 inches, with a high of 1.8 inches in 2007 and a low of 0.8 inches in 2002. The state's average rainfall for the last 10 years has averaged 1.4 inches, with a high of 1.8 inches in 2007 and a low of 0.8 inches in 2002. The state's average rainfall for the last 10 years has averaged 1.4 inches, with a high of 1.8 inches in 2007 and a low of 0.8 inches in 2002.

## Strong vote to retain stepping stones

The stepping stone project at Umbagog Park in Latham was approved by a strong vote of 10-2 at a meeting of the Latham Planning Board on Tuesday. The project, which will create a new crossing for the stream at Umbagog Park, was approved by a strong vote of 10-2 at a meeting of the Latham Planning Board on Tuesday. The project, which will create a new crossing for the stream at Umbagog Park, was approved by a strong vote of 10-2 at a meeting of the Latham Planning Board on Tuesday.

The project will create a new crossing for the stream at Umbagog Park, which will be a stepping stone bridge. The project, which will create a new crossing for the stream at Umbagog Park, was approved by a strong vote of 10-2 at a meeting of the Latham Planning Board on Tuesday. The project, which will create a new crossing for the stream at Umbagog Park, was approved by a strong vote of 10-2 at a meeting of the Latham Planning Board on Tuesday.

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