

Part D

Design, construction, auditing and maintenance

Part D of *Easy Steps* contains guidelines to assist local government planners, engineers and their consultants to achieve best practice design, construction, auditing and maintenance of pedestrian facilities.

The design, construction and maintenance of walking facilities have a significant influence on the walking experience. Poor practice can result in unsafe networks and facilities that do not meet the needs of all walkers, and can discourage walking.

The prescription for a good walking facility will depend on the environment and the type of walking experience it is intended to provide. As a minimum, all good walking facilities should be designed to:

- ▶ encourage walking
- ▶ provide a pleasant and safe walking experience
- ▶ cater for users with different needs and abilities
- ▶ be free of any potential sources of injury to users
- ▶ be appropriate to the location and the number of pedestrians
- ▶ consider whole-of-life costs.

Walking facilities should always match the character of the surroundings: for example, high-quality surfaces and street furniture for prestigious urban environments; crushed rock surfaces and minimum impact on surroundings in nature reserves. See Part C for more details on the planning and promotion of pedestrian facilities.

