

Australian Standard™

**Walking tracks**

**Part 2: Infrastructure design**



**S t a n d a r d s** Australia

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee CS-029, Walking Track Signs. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 16 March 2001 and published on 16 March 2001.

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The following interests are represented on Committee CS-029:

ACT Parks and Conservation Service  
Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council  
Australian Industry Group  
Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW  
Department of Conservation and Land Management Western Australia  
Department of Natural Resources (Qld)  
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University of Newcastle

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee CS-029, Walking Track Signs. It was prepared in conjunction with AS 2156.1, *Walking tracks, Part 1: Classification and signage*, and Committee BD-006, General Design Requirements and Loading on Structures was consulted during drafting.

The language used and criteria presented in this Standard is aimed at the designer of structures. The design criteria are varied depending on the track class in which the structure is to be constructed and the configuration of the structure.

AS 2156.1 gives a range of track classifications (classes 1 to 6) covering the various intended uses of tracks in terms of the difficulty and level of skill of intended users. No design criteria are given for track class 6 due to there being no defined track and, therefore, if a structure is provided the track class would be 5 by definition.

Walking track structures are simple structures, including boardwalks, pedestrian bridges, viewing platforms and other similar open, non-habitable structures, provided for the use of a wide range of visitors.

Together with AS 2156.1, this Standard recognizes that walking tracks are in environments valued by visitors for their natural and cultural qualities. Management considerations for choice of the type of structure to be used and decisions made during its general specification and design will cover the dual objectives of—

- (a) control of the impact of visitors, tracks and track infrastructure on the environment; and
- (b) provision of access for visitors to the quality of experience they seek, while recognizing the visitors' capabilities for safely accessing the points of interest.

There is a wide range of environments and a wide range of visitor capabilities. This Standard provides a framework to best match the wide range of situations with appropriate man-made infrastructure.

Risk assessments will determine the need to establish policies and procedures covering implementation of this Standard (see Appendix A).

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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**STANDARDS AUSTRALIA****Australian Standard  
Walking tracks****Part 2: Infrastructure design****SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL****1.1 SCOPE**

This Standard specifies requirements for the structural design of walking track structures, to protect natural and cultural assets and for use as aids to recreation in outdoor areas where the environment is the focus of recreational activities.

The general design of tracks including their layout, environmental management, aesthetics, and pathway design is not covered by this Standard.

The structural design criteria given in this Standard take into account factors such as location, expected use and type of recreational opportunity through reference to the track classifications given in AS 2156.1.

The following structures and parts of structures are covered in this Standard:

- (a) Boardwalks.
- (b) Galleries.
- (c) Pedestrian bridges, including wire crossings.
- (d) Platforms (for viewing).
- (e) Barriers.
- (f) Stairways.
- (g) Ladders.
- (h) Stiles.

This Standard does not cover structures intended to carry livestock (e.g. horses) or vehicles (including bicycles and light maintenance vehicles).

**NOTES:**

- 1 This Standard is intended primarily to be applied to new structures; however, existing structures may be assessed using the criteria given in this Standard. The track class should be specified before structural design of new structures commences.
- 2 For structures such as huts, shelters, barbecues, toilets, vehicle bridges, heritage structures, lookout towers, jetties and launch ramps, the approving authority should be referred to.
- 3 Background information and guidance for the use of this Standard is given in Appendix A.
- 4 Information on durability is given in Appendix B.
- 5 Information on design for light maintenance vehicles is given in Appendix C.

**1.2 OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this Standard is to provide designers and builders with design and construction requirements for non-habitable outdoor structures intended to protect the environment and to be used as recreational facilities.