

City of Sydney Tactile and Braille Street Signs – Users guide

Introduction

A network of Tactile and Braille street signs are being installed at every signalised pedestrian crossing throughout the City of Sydney, making it safer and easier for people of all abilities to navigate our streets.

- The tactile aluminum panels feature street names and building numbers in both braille and large, raised lettering so are accessible to people who are blind or have low vision.
- Each Tactile and Braille street sign is located on the audio tactile push button pole (to the right of the push button) as the reader faces the kerb. The Tactile and Braille information is oriented vertically, with the first letter at the top of the sign.
- Each Tactile and Braille street sign shows the name of the street directly in-front of the reader as they read the sign.
- After the street name, the information on the signs is in four formats, a standard format that applies to most Tactile and Braille Street signs, and 3 exceptions – format 2, format 3 and format 4.

Below is a description of the information contained in each of the four different formats.

Standard sign

- Street name
- Property numbers, and
- Either L or R.

The street name is followed by the property numbers directly behind the reader, and the letter L or R, indicating whether the shown property numbers are behind and to the left or right of the reader.

Figure 1 below an example of the standard format. Figure 1 depicts – Bridge Street 38-44L . This means that you are facing Bridge Street and in the block behind you to the left are the street addresses of 38-44 Bridge Street.



Figure 1: Standard Format Tactile and Braille Street sign

Format 2

In this instance there is only one property number in the block behind the reader

- Street name
- One Property number only
- Either L or R.

The image below shows an example of format 2. It depicts a “Park Street 27R” which means that you are facing Park St, and in the block behind you to the right there is only one property, 27 Park Street.



Figure 2: Tactile Braille Sign - Format 2

Format 3

- Street name
- Landmark/Park

In this instance there is a Park, Place or landmark building behind the reader.

Figure 3 below provides an example for format 3. It depicts a sign with “College Street Hyde Park”. This means when you are reading the sign, you are facing College Street, with the landmark of Hyde Park behind you.



Figure 3: Tactile and Braille Signage Format 3

Format 4

- Street name

In this instance, either

- a) The reader is standing on a refuge island to cross the second half of the street in front, so numbers are not applicable, or
- b) The reader is on a block where there are no entrances to the building behind you on that block, therefore is no street number to include on the sign. This is because their primary entrance may be around the corner.

Figure 4 below provides an example of “Market St”. This is placed on Market Street (near the intersection of York) as you face the Queen Victoria Building. It has no street numbers because the buildings behind on that part of Market Street don’t have any street addresses or entrances on that part of Market Street.



Figure 4: Tactile and Braille Signage format 4

An example of a two Tactile and Braille signs read together

As you make your way to your destination, you may come across a standard format sign, followed by a format 4 sign.

The following is an example of how the Standard and Format 4 sign relate to each other.

If you are walking south along York Street, on the left hand side of the street (that is walking from Barrack Street towards Market Street), when you come to the corner of Market and York Streets, at the tactile push button facing York street, you encounter a Standard Format 1 sign saying “York Street 117-129R”.

At the Tactile push button facing Market Street, you would come across a Format 4 sign reading “Market Street”, indicating you are about to cross market street, but behind you there are no buildings with entrances on that part of Market street.

If you were to cross Market Street, on the other side of the road at the tactile push button you would encounter a format 3 sign “Market Street, QVB”. Turning around to face the kerb, this would mean you are facing Market Street, and the QVB Landmark is behind you.

Frequently Asked Questions

In what areas will the signs be installed?

The Tactile and Braille signs are being installed in the City of Sydney local government area only at this stage.

Our boundaries are at Rushcutters bay to the east, incorporating only small parts of Paddington (most of Paddington and Woollahra are managed by Woollahra Council), and then along the eastern distributor. To the south the boundary is Gardeners Road between Rosebery and Botany, along to Canal Rd, and Sydney Park in St Peters. The boundary then extends up through the middle of King Street, St Peters and Newtown. To the west the boundary is the crescent in Annandale, and across thorough parts of Camperdown.

The signs could be installed in other local government areas, if other councils were willing to fund and install them. The City is happy to share all the specifications, workshop drawings etc. with any Council that might be interested.

How are the signs maintained?

The City will regularly inspect signage for damage, vandalism and/or for missing signs, to ensure signs are clean and legible, and plan repair and maintenance.

How can I report any damage or issues with the signage?

If you have any feedback or concerns about the signage, you can contact Customer Service on **02 9265 9333**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.