

Option 1. Roll-out access mat

This product provides a roll out solution for access purposes. The mat below is at City Beach.



Figure 1 Beach Mat Arrangement (City Beach example)



Figure 2 Beach Mat Arrangement Showing Sand Drift (City Beach example)

Advantages

- Option 1 is affordable in terms of the initial outlay. Mobi-mat (<https://www.pushmobility.com.au/products/mobi-mat-afx-beach-mattingmat>) offer this product; 100m supplied and delivered at \$48,090 + GST. A storage facility is further estimated at \$10,000 + GST, bring the total to approximately \$60,000 + GST. No warranty information was found.

Disadvantages

- Option 1 is labour intensive to maintain it in place on an ongoing basis, particularly in terms of the need to remove sand drift over the mat, which is expected to be a significant issue with the prevalence of a strong seabreeze most days at Preston Beach.
- While the mat is economical to purchase and install initially, fitting well within the grant budget, the mat may not have a long life span and is expected to need replacing within 10 years. No warranty information was available for the product investigated.
- An observation was made through the working group that for those families wanting to take disabled family members to the beach, the present practice is to simply take them in a 4x4 vehicle along with the rest of the family down and along the beach. This is the ideal and existing inclusive beach access practice. Option 1 invites visitors to an beach without a lift guard, who may not be aware of the risks at Preston Beach in terms of ocean hazards.
- The access mat without a suitable destination is not appropriate. Once at the beach a wheelchair will not have a platform to go to. The ocean front is not particularly suitable for disabled access, given the steepness of the beach at the water's edge and the prevalence of dumping waves at a beach which does not have lifeguards. Encouraging visitors in particular, who may not be familiar with these risks, creates it own risk.