

**CO2 – Disability Inclusion Action Plan**

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252011

TRIM 9405

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The purpose of this report is to advise that Council is required to develop a Disability Inclusion Action Plan under the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 and have a standalone and/or integrated plan in place by July 2017. Council has facilitated a planning process with Council's Executive and managers, staff and an internal working group. Broader community engagement followed through community conversations and consultation through public surveys. A draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) has been prepared for public exhibition and further community feedback prior to its finalisation.
- It is recommended that:
  1. The draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) be placed on public exhibition for 28 days to invite community feedback.
  2. Following review of community submissions from the public exhibition process, a final DIAP be submitted to Council for approval.

**REPORT**

Local Councils are required by the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 to undertake disability inclusion action planning by 1 July 2017. Guidelines for Local Government were released in late November 2015 which outlined a recommended process.

While Wollondilly Shire Council had a Disability Access Plan 2012, the Disability inclusion Action Plan is intended as a whole of Council planning tool to achieve Council's goals to support inclusion of people with disability in the community. It encompasses four key focus areas:

- Developing positive community attitudes and behaviours
- Creating liveable communities
- Supporting access to meaningful employment
- Improving access to services through better systems and processes.

The final Disability Inclusion Action Plan will be registered with the Disability Council and will be reported on an annual basis to the Minister of Disability Services.

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**CONSULTATION**

Managers, Team Leaders and Executive have been involved in the process since 2016 and provided support for Council to develop meaningful actions through engaging with the community and staff.

In developing the Disability Inclusion Action Plan, it was a requirement under the Disability Inclusion Act 2014 to consult people with disability as well as staff. To this end, Council consulted people with disability, carers, community groups and service providers across Macarthur at a Regional Disability Inclusion Action Plan Consultation in November 2016. This was in partnership with Campbelltown and Camden Councils.

In January a Shire wide survey was conducted and in February staff were consulted via a staff only survey. An internal staff-working group was set up in 2016 and the Disability Access Advisory Committee continued in a voluntary capacity as a working group after it was dissolved in 2016. Over 230 people took part and engaged with Council. The information and data collected has informed the draft Action Plan.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Most of the actions can either be achieved in our current budgets or forward budget estimates. There are several actions that may require grant funding or further budget considerations for the actions to be achieved, these being:

- Warragamba Inclusive Playground
- Public Toilet Strategy
- Accessible Bus Stop upgrades
- Provision of Council documents in alternative formats
- Upgrades to Council buildings, facilities and infrastructure
- Provision of closed captioning to Council archived videos.

Council will continue to look for external funding and present submissions to support current inclusion projects or those, which may go above and beyond the actions in the Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

**ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED IN A SEPARATE BOOKLET**

1. Disability Inclusion Action Plan Draft
2. Summary of staff survey data and feedback
3. Summary of external consultation data and feedback
4. Summary of Macarthur community conversations and feedback

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan be placed on public exhibition for 28 days to invite community feedback and following a review of feedback received, a final DIAP be submitted to Council for adoption in June 2017.