

CO2 – Review of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan

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TRIM 9405

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The purpose of this report is to advise that the Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan has been publicly exhibited with no submissions being received.
- It is recommended that Council adopt the Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

REPORT

Council resolved on 18 April 2017 to place the Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan on public exhibition for 28 days for community input prior to adoption.

Local Councils in NSW are required by the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 to undertake disability inclusion action planning by 1 July 2017.

While Wollondilly Shire Council previously had a Disability Access Plan 2012, the new Disability Inclusion Action Plan has been developed as a whole of Council planning tool to achieve Council's goals to support inclusion of people with disability in the community.

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan 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 Disability Inclusion Action Plan will be registered with the Disability Council and will be reported against on an annual basis to the Minister of Disability Services highlighting the key performance areas achieved by the Wollondilly Shire Council.

CONSULTATION

In developing the draft 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.

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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 informed the draft Plan.

The formal exhibition of the draft Plan closed on Wednesday 17 May 2017 with two submissions being received, one relating to living with Disability in Wollondilly and another relating directly to the DIAP which acknowledged that the proposed strategies are highly relevant, important and achievable. The recommendations have been included in the final document.

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 officers 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.

ATTACHMENT INCLUDED IN A SEPARATE BOOKLET

1. Disability Inclusion Action Plan

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan.