

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2022-2025

Priority Actions		
Action	Completed Y/N	Comment
An audit of footpaths (gradient, width, and condition) to identify priorities for future investment.	Yes	Footpaths within the municipality are continuously under review for failure and trip hazards. Since creation of these actions we have now been considering DDA recommended design values as part of this process and through the footpath renewal and replacement program we are gradually improving the design standard.
More seating and zebra crossings to provide people with limited mobility with greater confidence.	Yes	Wombat crossings have been installed in the Ulverstone CBD in Reibey Street and Crescent Street, and the Esplanade, Turners Beach.
The need for larger and better situated disabled parking spaces, including to cater for vans and vehicles fitted with ramps and hoists.	Yes	All new disabled parking spaces constructed within the municipality are designed to meet the dimensions specified in AS2890.6; these dimensions allow for vans and vehicles fitted with ramps and hoists. For greenfield sites, priority is always given to location of the disabled spaces.
More adult change facilities.	ongoing	Manager Property Services is in discussions with Department Premier and Cabinet regarding funding opportunities for additional changing facilities.
Developing a flyer and workshop for local business owners, to increase their awareness of the needs of people with disabilities, addressing things such as reducing obstacles outside and within shops.	Yes	A forum was held June 2024 to allow business owners to meet with members of the community to discuss accessibility and inclusion in the CBD. Feedback was provided to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry following the event.
Providing Councillors and staff with immersive experiences that help them better understand the needs of people with disabilities, such as trying to navigate the CBD using a wheelchair or wearing a blindfold.	ongoing	EA-SG met with the Paraquad Association of Tasmania Manager – Physical Disability Sport and Education Programs who has offered to conduct a session with Councillors to provide an immersive experience with a wheelchair.
Council provides work experience, volunteering, and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.	Yes	A member of the group is working closely with HR to build inclusive recruitment practices. A representative from People and Culture is now included in the working group.
Events are more accessible with regard to layout (e.g. spacing of food vans and stalls, kerb cuts kept clear, quiet areas, adequate disabled parking and toilets).	Yes	New public event planning material has been developed which includes advice on how to ensure events are accessible, such as allowing space for movement and adequate parking and toilets.

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Bring the Ulverstone Childcare Centre up to DDA compliance (there are currently no compliant parking spaces or toilets).	No	This will be implemented as part of the redevelopment of the Ulverstone Childcare Centre.
Development of web content and a brochure to help people with disabilities to identify the most convenient and accessible facilities, carparks and recreation areas.	Yes	Web content was reviewed in 2023 to highlight accessible facilities. Content for the updated website was also reviewed within this scope.
Investigate the need for hearing loop or similar technology in Council facilities, with input from Expression Australia or similar organisations.	Yes	The installation of hearing loops will be considered as part of future building redevelopment works or the construction of new buildings.
As part of the development of Council's new website, ensure Council Web Content Accessibility Guideline compliance.	Yes	We were pleased to receive positive feedback from the A&I Group regarding Council's new website and would welcome their ongoing feedback.

Other actions for consideration

Action		Comment
An audit of pedestrian crossings to determine a priority list for Tactile Ground Surface Indicators (TGSi) and audible pedestrian crossing signals.	ongoing	New crossings are being constructed with TGSi's, review and prioritisation of existing ongoing. Council's Public Safety Officer also met with representative from Vis-Ability to discuss requirements for tactiles and is working with the Department of State Growth to review the current signalled pedestrian crossings.
An audit of signage (placement, height, contrast, use of touch) to prioritise future investment.	ongoing	Road network sign audit is in progress and a renewal program will be developed. This will take into account faded signs, location etc.
Creating dedicated parking areas for elderly people who may otherwise occupy a disabled parking space.	Yes	It is assumed that elderly people with approval for a disability permit will need a disabled parking space. By providing additional spaces for the elderly with disabled permits that are not in accordance with the Australian Standard for parking with a disability, the Council would be negligent in the event of an accident and someone who should have been using the disabled space might get hurt. Accordingly, the focus is on provision of more disabled spaces, and upgrade of existing ones where possible.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2022-2025 New or improved beach accesses, that support people with a disability, including rollout ramps.	No	Council is reviewing all beach accesses with the goal of having one disability-accessible beach access in each coastal locality. Preliminary plans are underway for the first of these to be provided at Buttons Beach. Council's Parks Officer met with the A&I working group for feedback, and to discuss options for beach access equipment such as mats and chairs.
Additional and better-designed disabled parking spaces.	ongoing	This work is ongoing.
More all-abilities play equipment and tables.	Yes	All-ability play equipment has been installed in the following parks: Sulphur Creek Hall Forth Recreation Ground Anzac Park Penguin Foreshore playground Dial Park playground Robins Roost playground Hope Street playground A wheelchair-accessible BBQ has been installed at Johnsons Beach. The former Duck Pond at Tobruk Park has been redesigned as a Sensory Garden in consultation with the A&I Working Group. This includes wider pathways and inclusive seating for wheelchair users.
Improved access to the waterslide.	No	Council has undertaken works at the waterslide to grind down footpaths to make a more even surface for patrons and people requiring the assistance of a wheelchair or walker. New signage has been installed providing clearer information for patrons around safety and how to use the slide.
Cleaner and more accessible public toilets.	ongoing	The team is currently undertaking comprehensive inspections of all Council's public toilets, including auditing accessible toilets, ambulant toilets, access car parking and path of travel to toilets. A budget item of \$150,000 has been submitted for approval in the current budget process for next financial year and future years to upgrade the facilities according to the inspection results. Furthermore, the Council is in talks with the state government about funding opportunities for a Changing Places toilet facility.

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More frequent, better located kerb cuts.	Yes	Pram crossings can only be provided where they are required for access to a disabled space, or where they have a receiving crossing on the other side of the road to link the adjacent footpaths (usually at intersections and occasionally at mid-block); the risk to pedestrians increases dramatically with inconsistent placement and increasing numbers of crossing points. Therefore, we are constrained in the number and location of crossings but have been installing new ones where warranted and reviewing the condition of existing.
Ensuring that transparent screens / COVID-shields over counters, such as those used in the Council Administration Building, are made easier for people with low visibility to see.	No	An audit is currently underway to determine which Council buildings have counters or customer service focused. The design elements of the screens, including decals to indicate their transparent nature, as well as ventilation and perforation for sound transmission, are being analysed.
Better lighting and signage around community buildings and public toilets.	No	The team is currently undertaking comprehensive inspections of all Council's public toilets, including auditing lighting and signage. Furthermore, the same inspections will be undertaken on all our buildings in the near future.
Installation of liberty swings and other accessible play equipment in more areas within Central Coast.	Yes	All-ability play equipment has been installed in the following parks: Sulphur Creek Hall Forth Recreation Ground Anzac Park Penguin Foreshore playground Dial Park playground Robins Roost playground Hope Street playground
Update Council's Outdoor Dining Permit Policy, to ensure it meets the needs of people with disability.	No	The review of the Outdoor Dining Policy is expected to be completed by 2026/2027.
Replace bark in playgrounds, with rubber / 'soft-fall'.	Yes	The Open Space Plan identifies Service Levels for Playground and 'bark' softfall is still adequate for 'Local' playgrounds. However softfall could be utilised for direct play equipment commute through improved playground design.

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Provide better support for wheelchair sports, such as chair storage at the Ulverstone Sports and Leisure Centre.	Yes	Equipment storage at the Ulverstone Sport and Leisure Centre is an issue for all user groups. Staff have worked with Paraquad to make available a space for storage, however Paraquad declined the space as it was only able to partially meet their storage needs.
Utilise access consultants for projects.	Yes	There has been good level of engagement from staff across the organisation in consulting with the Access and Inclusion Working group for projects, for example, the Duck Pond Sensory Garden, the redevelopment of Council's website, and the updated community directory. This will continue to be encouraged.
Consider going “beyond compliance” when looking at accessible and inclusive infrastructure	Yes	An Access and Inclusion lens has been applied to a number of projects in 2023-2024, including the development of the new Sensory Park in Tobruk Park and plans for accessible beach access infrastructure. Council’s Parks Officer met with the A&I working group to seek feedback on design elements for both projects.
Working with neighbouring councils to promote respectful, accessible, and inclusive shared use of the Coastal Pathway, addressing things such as scooter and powered wheelchair safety.	Yes	A Facebook campaign was shared in 2023 regarding shared pathway etiquette. The A&I Working group invited the Devonport A&I group to a joint meeting in August and we will continue to build on this relationship.
Council proactively seeks funding (e.g. grants and election commitments) for inclusive equipment, events, and facilities.	Yes	Consideration is given to access and inclusion during the planning phase of capital projects, which feeds into the decision to seek inclusivity funding where available. Examples of Projects that have been considered with an accessibility lens include the cradle Coast Mountain Bike Park, ad Our Homes Our Future.
Build on our Disability Access and Inclusion work by looking into areas such as age, ethnicity, and gender.	Yes	Consideration is given to providing a wider representation of age, gender, ethnicity and ability in Council promotional materials.
Proactively recruit staff and volunteers with diversity and inclusion in mind.	Yes	A member of the group is working closely with HR to build inclusive recruitment practices.
Change Council’s community grants program guidelines to encourage accessibility and inclusion projects.	Yes	Council adopted a new Community Assistance, Grants and Sponsorship Policy in August 2024. Under the policy there are four grant categories including events, community support, grants and individual development. The guidelines for these grants include references to ‘fostering inclusion’, and ‘encourage accessibility and participation’ to ensure that funding can be used for projects and events that seek to encourage accessibility and inclusion.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2022-2025 More diverse communication channels, including television and radio.	Yes	Council has made regular use of radio and television over the last six months, particular in regards to promoting Summer on Ice. We have also continued monthly radio updates with mayor Cheryl Fuller on SeaFM and CoastFM, as well as 7AD when available.
The use of more diverse/representative imagery on Council documents and websites.	Yes	This has been actioned, with recent cinematography projects including a more diverse representation of Council staff. This will be a priority in 2025 as we update our Council and Central Coast imagery,
More stalls at events / drop-in sessions, to facilitate more accessible public engagement.	Yes	Community Conversations have shown a lot of success since their inception and will continue throughout 2025. A Communications and Engagement Framework is also being drafted to help teams to devise more effective, and also more accessible, engagement activities.
All Council produced videos contain captions.	Yes	EA-SG has discussed this with Council's Co-Ordinator Communications and Engagement of this and other accessibility-related requirements for communications.
Ensure all Council policy and plan reviews consider access and inclusion.	Yes	Corporate documents templates will be updated to include the need to consider access and inclusion. This is also built into the asset Management plans.
Proactively assist disability support organisations in Central Coast.	Yes	EA-SG has been establishing and maintaining relationships with service providers and support organisations over the past two years and will continue to do so. This includes providing information about current council projects, funding opportunities and sharing contacts.