

NAMBUCCA VALLEY COUNCIL

# DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

**2022-2026**

Year 1 PROGRESS REPORT



New footpath at Buz Brazil Oval, Vernon Street Scotts Head



Under the NSW Disability Inclusion Act (2014) each council in NSW must have a Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) which includes 4 areas of focus:

- Positive community attitudes and behaviours
- Liveable communities
- Meaningful employment
- Accessible systems and processes

## **PURPOSE OF THE PLAN**

This is a **corporate plan** which outlines strategies for Nambucca Valley Council, in its role as a service provider that will eliminate discrimination against people with a disability and actively promote inclusion.

## **AIM**

To develop and implement strategies which assist Nambucca Valley Council to work towards becoming an **accessible community** to all people, regardless of their abilities or disability.

## **COMMUNITY INCLUSION POLICY STATEMENT**

Nambucca Valley Council promotes and facilitates inclusion by:

- 1 Raising **awareness** and understanding of disability inclusion through, information and programs involving the community, businesses, Council staff and Councillors.
- 2 Ensuring that Council creates **opportunities** which include people with disability.
- 3 Providing **access** to services and facilities for people with disability.
- 4 Facilitating **communication** and consultation with the local community.
- 5 Monitoring the **needs** of people with disability and responding to those needs.

# PROMOTING POSITIVE COMMUNITY ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOURS

Aim: To support the development of positive attitudes towards people with disability and to build community awareness of their rights and abilities.

Council will:

**Support the Access Committee to continue its advisory and promotional work on inclusion and access. The Access Committee will review the DIAP annually and report progress to the community and Council.**

**Conduct meetings of Council within the community at accessible venues with accessible facilities.**

**Promote accessible business and tourism.**

- **YEAR 1 PROGRESS:**

The Access Committee met in July, October and November 2022 and then February, March, May and June 2023. A new Disability Inclusion Action Plan for 2022-2026 was submitted with Council's Annual Report by the required deadline. This document marks an annual review of the Plan.

Council has recommenced "away" meetings in community venues throughout the Valley including Taylors Arm and Utungun Halls. This greatly improves access to the Councillors, Senior staff and Council business.

There were no specific accessible business or tourism initiatives this year; however work recommenced on the concept of an Adult Changing Places facility for Macksville to assist residents and visitors. Macksville's proximity to the M1 is an ideal place for people to stop and use a Changing Place when travelling along the coast.



### **Nambucca Valley Council Access Committee June 2023**

Back Left to Right: Ms Annette Currell, Cr Susan Jenvey, Ms Samantha Bullock, Ms Fiona Henwood, Ms Alba Sky, Ms Coral Hutchinson, Mr Michael Porter, Mr Jack Poole.

Front Left to Right: Mr Peter Shales, Mr Lewis Parkins, Mr Les Small, Mr Mark Bettini

# CREATING LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

Aim: To increase participation of people with disability in all aspects of community life, through targeting approaches to address barriers.

Council will:

**Implement a program to improve accessible public toilets. Target – new amenities at the V-Wall Nambucca Heads and upgrade toilets to access standards in the Nambucca Heads Community and Arts Centre (NCAC).**

- **YEAR 1 PROGRESS:**

A new toilet block for the V-Wall would require substantial funding due to the location of power lines. The alternative is to refurbish the existing facilities and bring them up to standard. The target date is December 2023.

A concept plan for the toilets at the NCAC has been developed.

**Construct a Dressing Room and disability access for performers at the Bowraville Theatre.**

- **YEAR 1 PROGRESS:** Underway.

The upgrade of the Bowraville theatre is now at the construction certificate stage.

The project includes ramp access from the street to the stage/dressing room area and a disability chair lift for access to the main stage for performers who have a disability.

**Replace the boardwalk between the Visitor Information Centre and Bellwood Park, Nambucca Heads.**

- **YEAR 1 PROGRESS:** This has been included in the Capital Works Program for 2023/2024.

**Prepare a Pedestrian Access Management Plan (PAMP) for Scotts Head and Valla Beach.**

- **YEAR 1 PROGRESS:**

Scotts Head PAMP has been developed and much of the proposed work has been completed.

## Fence the children's playground in Ferry Street Macksville.

- **YEAR 1 PROGRESS:** Scheduled future works.

A redevelopment of this playground is proposed before fencing. This will include soft fall, a shade sail and new play equipment; and finally a fence. Targeted for 2023/2024.

## Undertake a survey design project to see if we can construct better pedestrian access to Shelly Beach Nambucca Heads.

- **YEAR 1 PROGRESS:** Survey completed.

A survey has been carried out and is being costed. There are constraints wherever a path goes and the result of this is that beach access along the road is going to result in steps. Access for people requiring wheelchair access will continue to be near the amenities block which has accessible toilets and parking.

## Implement the following improvements to the footpath network:

<b>Vernon Street (east), Scotts Head</b>	Install a <b>170m</b> long, 1.2m wide footpath, linking Scotts Head public school to the Scotts Head east residential and beaches
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- **YEAR 1 PROGRESS:** Completed.

<b>Matilda Street, Macksville</b>	Provision of blisters and ramps to reduce the distance school children have to walk across Matilda Street, adjacent to a busy Intersection
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- **YEAR 1 PROGRESS:** Scheduled future works.

<b>Vernon Street (west), Scotts Head</b>	Install a <b>200m</b> long, 2.0m wide footpath, linking Scotts Head Public School to the Scotts Head west residential area and linking both to the Buz Brazil sports fields
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- **YEAR 1 PROGRESS:** Completed. (See photograph on front cover)

<b>Whaites Street, Nambucca Heads</b>	Provision of a <b>100m</b> long, 1.2m wide footpath providing a missing link in the footpath network between nearby residents.
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- **YEAR 1 PROGRESS:** Work in progress.

<b>Carbin Street Bowraville</b>	Install a <b>55m</b> footpath link between St Mary's school and nearby intersection.
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- **YEAR 1 PROGRESS:** Scheduled future works.



**West Street,  
Macksville**

Provision of a **50m** long, 1.2m wide footpath linking a children's crossing to nearby residents.

- **YEAR 1 PROGRESS:** Completed.

This footpath is opposite the Macksville Primary School sports field and connects to crossing at the school rear gate.



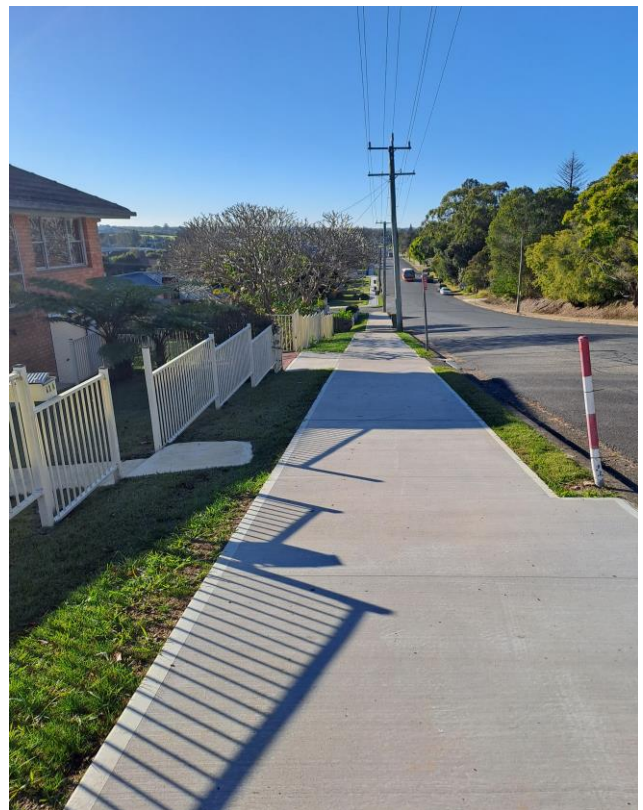
**Boundary Street,  
Macksville**

Provision of a **235m** long, 2.0m wide footpath linking a children's crossing to Macksville footpath network on Princess Street. This route is regularly used by large groups of school children to access the sporting and environmental facilities.

- **YEAR 1 PROGRESS:** Completed.



West from Princess St intersection



East to Cooper Street traffic lights



**Partridge Street,  
Macksville**

Construct a footpath linking Walter Munro Close with Cooper Street Macksville improving access to the children's playground; ("Macks05" in the Council's PAMP).

- **YEAR 1 PROGRESS:** Completed.



Looking east along Partridge Street.



Along Walter Munro Close

**High Street, Bowraville**

Construct a wider footpath along High Street west towards North Arm Road; install 2 gutter crossings to marked pedestrian crossing at Bowraville Central School; ("Bowra07" in the Council's PAMP).

- **YEAR 1 PROGRESS:** Gutter crossing and footpath link installed. Project completed.





# **IMPROVING ACCESS TO MAINSTREAM SERVICES THROUGH BETTER SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES**

Aim: To ensure that people with disability are able to make informed choices about available services and to easily and efficiently access mainstream government services and other opportunities in the community.

Council will:

**Manage its website to continue to meet WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines).**

**Work with telecommunications providers to improve mobile phone and internet availability in rural areas. Target – installation of a Macro telecommunications tower at South Arm; pole antennas at Burrupine Hall and Valla Beach; and the NBN at Girralong RFS, Taylors Arm RFS and Burrupine Hall**

- **YEAR 1 PROGRESS:**

Telstra Corporation Ltd was engaged by Council to install the Macro Base tower on South Arm Road, South Arm. The tower is completed with minor surrounding works being finalised. Commissioning is expected late July 2023.

The exact locations of the towers at Burrupine and Valla Beach are being negotiated and the towers are in the preconstruction stage.

NBN with Wi-Fi for public use has been installed at Girralong, South Arm, Taylors Arm and Burrupine. Whilst this is available year-round for public use, the service can be accelerated during disasters for optimum communication.

# **SUPPORTING ACCESS TO MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT**

**Aim:** To increase the number of people with disability in meaningful employment, thereby enabling people with disability to plan for their future and exercise choice and control as a result of economic security.

Council will:

**Implement and review the Equal Employment Policy and Equal Employment Management Plan 2021-2023.**

**Maintain a recruitment website meets access standards.**

**Provide work spaces which meet the access needs of employees.**

- **YEAR 1 PROGRESS:**

Application forms on our recruitment website include a statement that Council is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and accessible workplace and inviting applicants to tell us if they require support or assistance to participate during the recruitment process.

Equipment and other measures provided to meet the access needs of employees includes height adjustable desks, ergonomic mice and keyboards, headsets, prescription safety glasses and professionally fitted hearing protection.

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