

Nambucca Valley 
Disability Access & Inclusion Committee

MINUTES

Date: 25 February 2025	Location: Council Chambers
Start Time: 2:00 PM	Chair: Cr Susan Jenvey (acting)

Attendees: Cr Simson (delegate), Cr Jenvey (reserve delegate), Michael Porter, Alba Sky, Stacey Munro, Natalie Brett, Lewis Parkins, Les Small and Dean, Jocelyn Box, Reanna Usher

Apologies: Fiona Henwood, Kim Walsh, Tracey Adams, Peter Shales (Chair)

Acknowledgement of Country and Acknowledgement of lived experience

Confirmation of Minutes: That the committee endorse the minutes of the previous meeting as accurate

Alba Sky/Cr Simson

New membership: Natalie Brett – Tursa Employment Services

That the committee endorse the membership of Natalie Brett and Tursa to the NVDAIC committee

Lewis Parkins/Stacey Munro.

Discussion: Include new membership as a standing item on the Agenda.

Matters arising from previous minutes:

See agenda item Terms of Reference

Review of Terms of Reference

Executive Leadership Team of Council had a few additional suggestions for the Terms of Reference:

- That the name be changed to “Nambucca Valley *Disability Access & Inclusion Committee*”
- Moved the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) to the top of the list of objectives.
- Voting rights of organisations – one organisation = 1 vote.
- Addition of a quorum as 50% of members plus 1
- Have accepted the return to monthly meetings as long as attendance numbers warrant it. Open to review.

Discussion:

What is our official membership numbers (to understand our quorum)?
Previous quorum was 5 members.

What are the voting rights of the Councillor delegates on the Committee?

Discussed the number of voting members on the committee and Jocelyn to confirm. Suggestion of list of members and for each member to provide a short blurb about themselves.

Action:

Jocelyn to confirm Councillor delegates and voting rights, Committee members, advise committee and update Terms of Reference accordingly.

Vote: *That the Nambucca Valley Disability Access and Inclusion Committee agree with the final draft of the Terms of Reference (will go to Council to approve)*

Cr Simson/Alba Sky

Guest Speaker - Reanna Ussher – Community Engagement Officer (Road Safety)

Reanna would like to discuss with the committee about how NVDIAC can inform our road safety.

Committee can raise issues with Reanna over time.

Issues raised by Committee:

The lack of pedestrian crossing at Aiden St Scotts Head and the confusion that the speed hump is a crossing. Reanna advises the Traffic Committee is investigating, there are challenges with rules and restrictions on pedestrian crossings and the loss of parking.

Driver responsibility in shared zones

- Reanna looking at delivering education on shared zones
- Police would need to monitor driver behavior
- Identification of shared zones – flashing lights, patterns on the road or different pavement (like Coffs Harbour Central)

Council's best lever for pedestrian safety projects is the PAMP

Action: Jocelyn to provide Renna's contact details to Committee members should they have further ideas to raise.

Disability Inclusion Action Plan

- Final report submitted end of Nov 2024 (attached)
- Opportunity to update current DIAP – must be submitted by end June 2025.
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan review – community survey

Discussion:

Proposed changes to existing plan

Promoting positive community attitudes and behaviours:

- Woolworths – quiet time/space – do our local Woolworths offer this? Promote that.
- Factsheets and toolkits on how to be an accessible business. Education around disabilities that aren't physical, including mental health, and education around being a good employer for people with disability.
- Sport opportunities: Are there any local sporting groups for people with disability? We can promote
- The Sunflower program discussed by Busways - promote

Creating liveable communities:

- Installation of disability accessible play equipment (remove Ferry St playground fencing item and replace with this action for identified playgrounds)
- Macksville Memorial Pool accessibility – indoor pool is preferred by people with disability, especially females, as the accessibility is better and less exposure to sun. However, accessing that pool with all the activities makes it difficult. People try to work with the published times, however, they change with no notice.
- Swimming teachers' awareness of disabilities like autism and how to manage that in students. The pool is an overwhelming environment.
- Nambucca Heads and Macksville main street shopfronts are not accessible.
- Advocacy for building standards that all new builds are accessible.
- Increased sand at VWall coming over the footpath from new beach – solutions?

Supporting access to meaningful employment:

- Disability employment organisations may be able to help Council understand other actions they could take.
- Survey of businesses – disability accessible, disability employer, what are the incentives for businesses/small businesses to provide opportunities for people with disability. Regional community disadvantages.
- Local businesses need education – afraid to take the step and learn about it and worry it is about additional cost and support, and not realising what is available to assist them.
- Commissioner for Disability Employment.
- Promote excellence in access – acknowledging businesses.
- Community engagement
- Lived experience survey – able-bodied people provided wheelchairs to attempt to access and get around town, and see life from the perspective of a person with disability
- Website “the field” advertises people with disability looking for jobs. Profile provides information on their skills and needs. Awareness of this website?

Improving access to systems and processes:

- Previous DIAP deliverables were about telecommunications upgrades, not disability.
- How people with disability can do business with council – pay rates, register their dog. Utilising hearing loops and other technology on council facilities. This is what needs to be considered in this section of the DIAP.

Timeline for DIAP revision:

25 March	Draft survey brought to Committee for approval
April	Launch survey Committee, Councillors and staff to hold pop up sessions to engage feedback Share with disability support organisations. Promote across media and socials
End April	Close survey and begin analysis
27 May	Report on survey and draft DIAP Action items in response for Committee discussion and endorsement
June	Endorsed by Council and submitted to Department of Communities & Justice.

Vote: That the committee noted the DIAP Progress 2 report and the next steps for revising the DIAP

Stacey Munro/Michael Porter

General Business

Correspondence to Committee

- Concerning footpath along River St Macksville and Council's response
- Added to register

Events and Activities for 2025:

Notable dates

International Day of People With Disability

- Requests for funding has been made in the budget.
- Proposal to host an award day, like Bellinghen's Ian J Cooper Awards, where community can nominate a person with disability who has made an impact, a business that has improved access and inclusion etc. NVDAIC can sit as the assessment panel.

Create a calendar of other days and Committee can raise awareness through Council's social media.

Grant opportunity – Inclusion and Accessibility Fund – Community Awareness

Committee would like Council to apply. Project idea:

- Develop a toolkit to support local businesses to be accessible to customers and employees
- Host a Symposium for business to raise awareness of disability and how they can improve their inclusivity, including guest speakers, local businesses who have made great achievements here, and expo of suppliers of useful equipment (i.e. portable ramps)
- Accessible Tourism pamphlet and info – DIAP action to promote accessible tourism.
- How to hold an accessible and inclusive event.

Invitation from Bellinghen Shire Council: Sea Access demonstration – Urunga Lido, Friday 28 @ 10 am

Committee watched the demonstration video.

Action: Jocelyn will attend and advise. Anyone else who wishes is welcome to go.

Business accessibility checklist

Added to info for grant

Committee member noted new shop in the main street Macksville has a portable accessibility ramp. They have a sticker in the window, they bring out the ramp if you need. Awareness campaign?

No other business

Meeting close: 3:37 PM

Next meeting date: 25 March 2025