



2022 - 2026

Year 2 Progress Report

Acknowledgement of Country

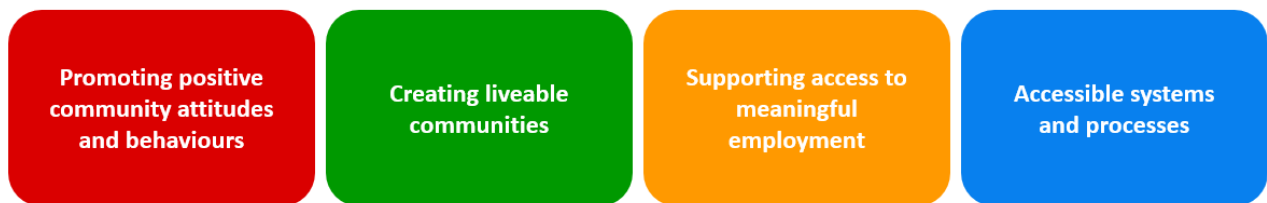
Nambucca Valley Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, rivers and sea, the Gumbaynggirr people, and their continual connection to the Valley. We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging and are committed to reconciliation and healing.

Acknowledgement of lived-experience

Nambucca Valley Council acknowledges and appreciates the collaboration of residents with lived experience of disability, their carers, and organisations who have generously provided their time and input to help make Nambucca Valley LGA an accessible and inclusive community. We continue to work with our community to ensure all people are represented and can lead healthy and fulfilling lives in the Nambucca Valley.

What is a Disability Inclusion Action Plan

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:



The Nambucca Valley Disability Inclusion Action Plan has 22 action items across these key focus areas to progress over the years 2022 – 2026.

Some of the actions in this plan are ongoing whilst others are new projects to be implemented for the betterment of community for all.

Aim:

To develop and implement strategies which assist Nambucca Valley Council to work towards becoming an accessible community to all people.

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.

Focus Area: 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 of inclusion and access. The Access Committee will review the DIAP annually and report progress to the community and to Council.
- Conduct meetings of Council within the community at accessible venues with accessible facilities.
- Promote accessible tourism

Year 2 Progress:

The Access Committee continued to meet throughout 2023-2024. The Committee consists of community members and organisations in the disability sector. Committee meetings did reduce to bi-monthly in early 2024 (scheduled to resume monthly in 2025)

Access Committee inspected Nambucca Heads Library dementia-friendly facilities and has toured other proposed works and projects by Council.

Advocated for the inclusion of disability parking bays on High Street Bowraville, in particular near the Chemist and for a kerb ramp at the chemist to allow mobility, wheelchair and pram access, which were successfully implemented

Nambucca Valley Council collaborated with Nambucca Valley Rotary, Lions Club of Nambucca Head, Macleay Options, physiotherapist Bec Dalzell, and the Macksville Memorial Aquatic and Fitness Centre to provide a mobile change table to enable people with disability to change before and after a swim.



Credit: News of the Area - [Community Collaboration To Support People With Disabilities In the Nambucca Valley](#)

Due to limited resourcing over the period, the promotion of disability accessible tourism has not yet taken place.

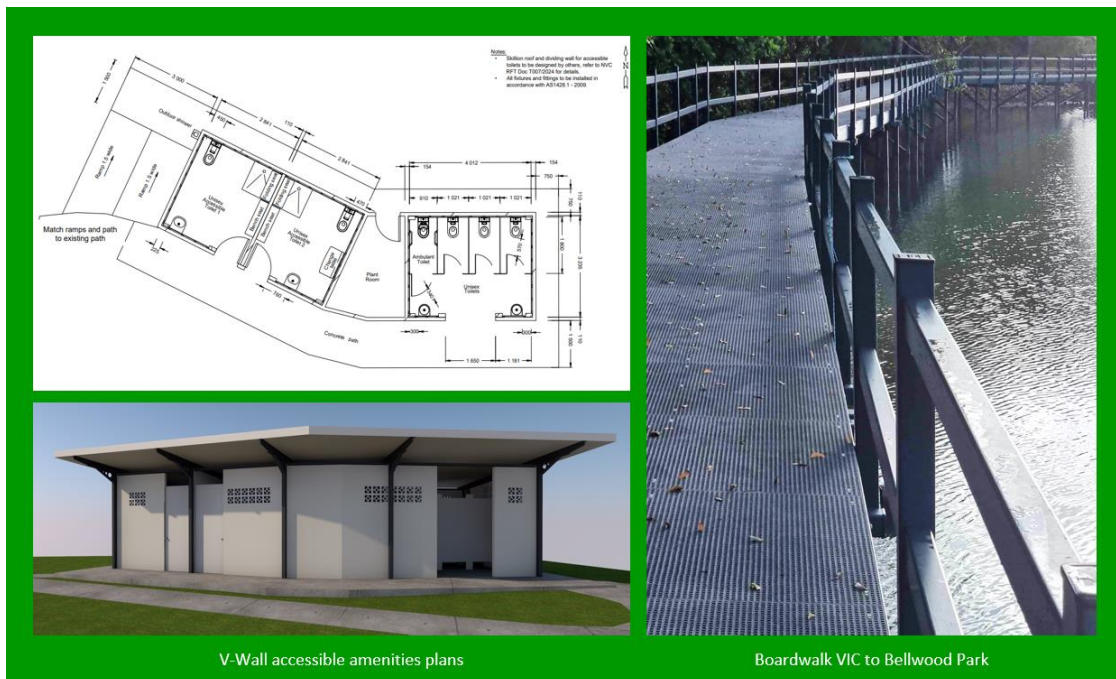
Focus Area: Creating liveable communities

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

Infrastructure improvements under the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026

Project	Progress
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.	Design has been completed to convert the old male and female toilets into two disability compliant and 4 unisex ambulant bathrooms. Accessibility via pathway upgrades to the future compliant toilets is being considered. Nambucca Community Arts Centre has gone out to RFQ already.
Construct a Dressing Room and disability access for performers at the Bowraville Theatre.	The RFQ for the access lift and ramp are being prepared for tender.
Replace the boardwalk between the Visitor Information Centre and Bellwood Park, Nambucca Heads.	Completed
Prepare a Pedestrian Access Management Plan (PAMP) for Scotts Head and Valla Beach.	Scotts Head PAMP completed. Valla Beach works progressing without need for PAMP.
Fence the children's playground in Ferry Street Macksville.	Shade sail and play equipment installed. Soft-fall ground installation in progress. Reviewing request for fencing
Undertake a survey design project to see if we can construct better pedestrian access to Shelly Beach Nambucca Heads.	Project has been surveyed and costed. There are some constraints around the path location and as a result, wheelchair access will remain at the accessible amenities block and parking area. Design is complete and seeking grant funding.
Construct a footpath linking Walter Munro Close with Cooper Street Macksville improving access to the children's playground.	Completed 2022-2023 Progress Report
Vernon Street (West), Scotts Head: Install a 200m 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	Completed 2022-2023 Progress Report
Vernon Street (East), Scotts Head: Install a 170m long, 1.2m wide footpath, linking Scotts Head public school to the Scotts Head east residential and beaches.	Completed 2022-2023 Progress Report
Matilda Street, Macksville: Provision of blisters and ramps to reduce the distance school children have to walk across Matilda Street, adjacent to a busy Intersection.	Completed
West Street, Macksville: Provision of a 50m long, 1.2m wide footpath linking a children's crossing to nearby residents	Completed 2022-2023 Progress Report
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.	Completed 2022-2023 Progress Report

Project	Progress
Whaites Street, Nambucca Heads: Provision of a 100m long, 1.2m wide footpath providing a missing link in the footpath network between nearby residents	Completed
Footpath extension - St Mary's Bowraville: Install a 55m footpath link between school and nearby intersection	Completed 2022-2023 Progress Report



V-Wall accessible amenities plans

Boardwalk VIC to Bellwood Park

Focus Area: 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 recruitment website that meets access standards
- Provide work spaces which meet the access needs of employees

Due to limited resources, Council has not progressed the Equal Employment Policy implementation or Management Plan to date.

Council's website is currently undergoing an update to meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (further detail later in the report).

Council has included a statement of commitment to a safe accessible and inclusive workplace in its recruitment advertising, and provides equipment necessary to meet the access needs of employees.

Focus Area: Improving access to 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 Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)
- Work with telecommunications providers to improve mobile phone and internet availability in rural areas.
 - Installation of a Macro Telecommunications tower at South Arm
 - Pole antennas at Burrupine Hall and Valla Beach
 - NBN at Girralong RFS, Taylors Arm RFS, and Burrupine Hall.

Council have purchased Monsido, which is software which scans council's website and advises of changes to ensure WCAG compliance. This is a work in progress due to the large amount of items and information on Council's website.

Council engaged with Telstra in 2022-2023 reporting period to commence identifying needs, locations and works.

South Arm macro telecommunications tower was commissioned in late June 2023. The Valla Beach pole antenna was completed in June 2024. Burrupine pole antenna has not progressed and Council is chasing an update to ensure it is completed before 31 December 2024 when grant funding expires.

NBN with WiFi for public use has been installed at Girralong, South Arm, Taylor's Arm, and Girralong.

Review of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026

Council is accountable to the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) in reporting the progress of the DIAP. The DIAP is presented to Council's Access Committee and then approved by Council in an Ordinary Meeting, before being submitted to DCJ for the annual progress report.

Review of the actions and amendments to the existing DIAP will take place by 1 July 2025. Further comment and feedback from community is welcome.

To get involved in the Access Committee, please contact council:

council@nambucca.nsw.gov.au

(02) 6568 2555