

MINUTES OF THE INCLUSION & ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Monday, 30 March 2026
Location: Osprey/Orchid Training Room, City Administrative Building, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 11:03 AM

The following members were present:

Clr Gillian Boyd – Chairperson
Mayor Patricia White
Clr Debbie Killian
Clr Selena Clancy
Ms Veronica Rawlinson
Ms Jodie Hoger (Observer)
Mr Bill Deaves
Mr Frederick Oberg
Ms Kylieanne Derwent
Ms Amanda Smith
Ms Juliette Boyd
Ms Kate Kinch
Mr Andrew Constance - Chief Executive Officer

Others present

Ms Katie Buckman – Director – City Performance
Ms Jessica Richardson – Acting Lead – Vibrant Communities
Ms Carolyn Wilkes – Social Planner
Ms Natalie Johnson – Inclusion & Access Partner
Mr Benjamin Fischer – Acting Governance Coordinator – left at 11:21am
Ms Kat Fischer – Governance Officer (Minute taker)

Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

RESOLVED (By consent)

That Clr Gillian Boyd be appointed as the Chairperson for the next 12 months and that Ms Veronica Rawlinson be appointed as the Deputy Chairperson for the next 12 months.

CARRIED

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Lesley Zandstra, Penelope Hallet, Chris Mitchell, Lily Wright, and Tony Pearman.

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Minutes of the Inclusion & Access Advisory Committee held on Monday 17 November 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declaration of Interests

Nil

PRESENTATIONS

IA26.1 Update on the Disability Inclusion Action Plan

**HPERM Ref:
D26/89054**

Ms Carolyn Wilkes – Social Planner presented an update on the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) 2022-26 and the development of the DIAP 2026-30. An overview was also provided of extensive community and staff engagement undertaken to inform development of the next DIAP. This engagement highlighted priorities around accessible and inclusive communities, Council's leadership role in driving inclusion, community attitudes towards disability, and improved employment opportunities for people with disability. Staff advised that work is underway to develop the next DIAP, with a proposed timeline for Council endorsement, public exhibition, and launch later in the year. The information presented to the Committee will be made available with these minutes.

Following the presentation, Committee members sought clarification on several matters.

In response to questions regarding deferred actions, Council staff advised that some items, including kerb ramp works, were deferred due to a lack of allocated funding rather than being discontinued.

Clr Clancy enquired after the engagement of the veteran community. Staff advised that while veteran-specific engagement data was not currently available, veterans could be considered as a stakeholder group in future engagement activities.

Clr Killian queried how the completion of actions related to information sharing on neurodiversity had been measured, noting that this appeared to be an ongoing area of work. Staff advised that the completed status related to a specific project, while acknowledging that further information sharing and engagement had emerged as a priority for the next DIAP.

Clarification was provided on engagement statistics, with staff confirming that 240 survey responses were received, including both general community and Easy English surveys, and that survey respondents formed part of the broader group of engaged participants. Staff also confirmed that a significant proportion of survey respondents identified as people with disability.

Concerns were raised regarding accessible public transport. Staff noted that public transport accessibility is primarily a State Government responsibility, but Council continues to advocate on these issues. Comments were also made regarding the impact of transport and fuel affordability on community participation, particularly for people with disability who may not receive NDIS support.

Clr Clancy highlighted Council's ongoing efforts to address accessibility through strategic planning, including footpath and mobility initiatives.

Committee members also discussed the importance of representation of people with lived experience of disability within Council governance structures. Staff advised that several of the Steering Committee members are people with disability, and the value of increased lived-experience representation was acknowledged.

REPORTS

IA26.2 Action Table Report - 30 March 2026

HPERM Ref:
D26/73381

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee:

1. Receive the Updated Action Table Report for information.
2. Acknowledge the following actions as complete and remove them from the action table:
 - a. IA24.3 - The State of Accessible Transport in the Shoalhaven LGA - submit to next meeting
 - b. IA25.3 – Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee Terms of Reference Review 2025
 - c. IA25.2 - Defer - Workshop - Disability Inclusion Action Plan Review
 - d. IA25.5 - Additional Items - General Business - Carparking associated with relocation of Centrelink.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee:

1. Receive the Updated Action Table Report for information.
2. Acknowledge the following actions as complete and remove them from the action table:
 - a. IA25.3 – Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee Terms of Reference Review 2025
 - b. IA25.2 - Defer - Workshop - Disability Inclusion Action Plan Review
 - c. IA25.5 - Additional Items - General Business - Carparking associated with relocation of Centrelink.
3. Note the following item as incomplete:
 - a. IA24.3 - The State of Accessible Transport in the Shoalhaven LGA - submit to next meeting

CARRIED

IA26.3 Additional Item - Accessible Parking - Health & Community Services - Services Australia Building Nowra

This item was discussed during IA26.2 - Action Table Report - 30 March 2026.

RECOMMENDATION (By consent)

That:

1. The Inclusion & Access Advisory Committee receive a report from the Chief Executive Officer (Director – City Services) in regard to the status of accessible parking spots in the Shoalhaven.
2. Council writes to both State and Federal Ministers and local State and Federal Members in relation to accessible parking spaces at Services Australia Building Nowra.
3. The Chief Executive Officer (Director – City Services) be requested to look at accessible parking in relation to health and community services, a mapping count of the number of spaces within the community, and how that compares to population growth.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

IA26.4 Presentation - Draft Community Infrastructure Strategic Plan 2056

Ms Natalie Johnson – Inclusion & Access Partner provided a presentation to the Committee and advised that a Draft Community Infrastructure Strategic Plan 2056 has been prepared and will be placed on public exhibition from 22 April to 20 May 2026. The information presented to the Committee will be made available with these minutes.

Committee members were advised that invitations to attend stakeholder information sessions will be issued to members of the Inclusion & Access Advisory Committee. These sessions will be by invitation only and are intended to support targeted engagement with key stakeholders.

IA26.5 Additional Item - Methods of Reporting Accessibility Concerns to Council

Council staff advised the Inclusion & Access Advisory Committee members of the various avenues available to them and the broader community to report accessibility concerns or provide feedback regarding public spaces within their local areas.

It was noted that the link to report, request, or provide feedback would be included with the meeting minutes and made available on Council's website:

<https://www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/Services-and-requests-A-Z/Report-request-or-provide-feedback>

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 12:28pm.

Clr Gillian Boyd
CHAIRPERSON