



## MINUTES

The Minutes of the **Disability Inclusion Committee** meeting held in the Ros Crichton Pavilion, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney on Tuesday 21 May 2024.



## PRESENT

Councillor Beregi in the Chair  
Councillor Baker  
Councillor Lamb  
Councillor Santer  
Councillor Welch (remote)

**Staff:** Therese Cole, Chief Executive Officer  
Marcelo Occhiuzzi, Director Community, Planning and Environment  
Gabrielle Rennard, Service Unit Manager Community Resilience and Sustainability  
George Carrick, Access and Inclusions Coordinator  
Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minutes)

**Members:** Jaci Armstrong, Committee Member  
Naomi Deck, Committee Member  
Alistair Lee, Committee Member  
Judy Harwood, Community Member  
Kate Wilson, Community Member

**Visitors:** Gabriella Taylor, The Planning Studio  
April McCabe, The Planning Studio

**Apologies:** Rosalind Brown, Committee Member  
Jillian Christie, Committee Member

### 1. Confirmation of Minutes

Nil.

### 2. Disclosures of Interest

Nil.

A Motion was moved by Jaci Armstrong and seconded by Judy Harwood.

**Resolved to recommend:**

1. That the name of the Committee be changed to the Access and Inclusion Committee.
2. That the Committee meetings start at 5.30pm.

Voting was unanimous

### **3. Committee Reports**

#### **3.1. Disability Inclusion Action Plan - progress report**

**AUTHOR** George Carrick, Access and Inclusion Coordinator

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress made with the implementation of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) 2022 – 2026.

- North Sydney Council endorsed the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026 (DIAP), October 2022, including commitment of actions relating to four focus areas.
- The current DIAP is currently halfway through its plan cycle.
- A core function of the Disability Inclusion Committee is to provide input on the implementation of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan.
- The attached report contains a summary of the progress achieved for each action item outlined in the DIAP up to May 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026 Progress Report May 2024 be noted.

The Motion was moved by Naomi Deck and seconded by Jaci Armstrong.

Voting was unanimous.

**Resolved to recommend:**

1. **THAT** the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026 Progress Report May 2024 be noted.

North Sydney Council endorsed the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026 (DIAP), October 2022, including commitment of actions relating to four focus areas.

1. Positive Community Attitudes and Behaviours
  2. Create Liveable Communities
  3. Employment
  4. Systems and Processes
- A core function of the Disability Inclusion Committee is to provide input on the implementation of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan.
  - The current DIAP is halfway through its planning cycle and staff provided a progress update on implementation of the plan.
  - The report presented to the committee contains a summary of the progress achieved for each action item outlined in the DIAP up to May 2024.

The Committee provided the following feedback: -

- There are areas where Council may need to be more proactive, including ensuring information is in an accessible format, cultural awareness training and translation in multiple languages to ensure equity for inclusive opportunities.
- Council to improve accessibility of documents for the Committee and community engagement more generally.
- Council to engage with a digital document accessibility specialist.
- Prioritisation of Wayfinding signage at Stanton Library and Coal Loader sites. Access and Inclusion Committee to be further consulted regarding proposed wayfinding improvements at the Coal Loader.
- That Council consider producing guidelines for developers / Wayfinding Strategy including non-negotiable standards for clear pathways and predictability of travel.

### **3.2. Social Inclusion Plan Discussion Paper**

**AUTHOR:** George Carrick, Access and Inclusion Coordinator

The purpose of this report is to provide details of the Social Inclusion Discussion Paper to the Disability Inclusion Committee.

- The Social Inclusion Strategy is one of five informing strategies currently being prepared by Council that will be combined to inform the new 2025 – 2035 Community Strategic Plan.
- Council is currently undertaking consultation with the community and key stakeholders to identify needs and aspirations of North Sydney over the next ten years.
- The Disability Inclusion Committee has been identified as a key stakeholder and as such, will be briefed during the Committee meeting on Tuesday 21 May 2024.
- The purpose of the Social Inclusion Discussion Paper is to present information to guide comprehensive engagement regarding social inclusion in North Sydney.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**1. THAT** the Social Inclusion Discussion Paper be noted by the Disability Inclusion Committee.

The Motion was moved by Judy Harwood and seconded by Kate Wilson.

Voting was unanimous.

#### **Resolved to recommend:**

**1. THAT** the Social Inclusion Discussion Paper be noted by the Disability Inclusion Committee.

April McCabe, Director The Planning Studio facilitated a discussion with panel members about the draft principles outlined in the Discussion Paper – Connection, Contribution, Investment and Belonging – what they mean to panel members and how they would interpret these principles. An additional principle – Visibility – was also discussed. Panel members also shared their experience as members of the north Sydney community and provided real examples related to the principles.

The Social Inclusion Strategy is one of five informing strategies currently being prepared by Council, that will be combined to inform the new 2025 – 2035 Community Strategic Plan.

- Council is currently undertaking consultation with the community and key stakeholders to identify needs and aspirations of North Sydney over the next ten years.
- The Disability Inclusion Committee has been identified as a key stakeholder.
- The purpose of the Social Inclusion Discussion Paper is to present information to guide comprehensive engagement regarding social inclusion in North Sydney.
- Committee members encouraged to provide feedback and submissions on all five discussion papers at [Have your say on our next ten years | Your Say North Sydney \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/your-say-north-sydney) or to contact April directly.
- The committee noted opportunities should be provided to engage community members and identify communities that might be less likely to engage with Council and proactively reach out and provide opportunities for consultation, including on strategy development and seek input in their environments.

Action:

- Provide Committee members with April McCabe's contact details for any further questions or input to Social Inclusion Discussion paper and links to all the Community Forums (noting forums have been moved to online format).

#### **4. General Business**

- I. It was agreed that a future Access and Inclusion Committee meeting (Spring) be held at the Coal Loader, where members can walk through the site.
- II. The Mayor, noted that Councillor Beregi is presenting a Notice of Motion for 27 May Council meeting, requesting that Council quarantine an annual budget sufficient to fund initiatives, infrastructure, and services that will advance accessibility and inclusion within our Local Government Area.

#### **5. Closure**

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.