

Disability Inclusion Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: 20 February 2019
Time: 4:30
Venue: City Hall
Meeting: Mulubinba Room
Meeting Objective: Advisory Committee

1. **Welcome**

Attendance:

Eliot Shaw (Chair)
Chris Leishman
Margaret Wood
Tracy Walker
CI Matthew Byrne
CI Carol Duncan
Steve Warham (Committee Facilitator)
Ian Rhodes (Community Planning Co-ordinator)

2. **Apologies:**

Kirsty Russell
Norm McPherson
CI Andrea Rufo
Joseph Popov
Nathan Burford

3. **Acknowledgement of Country**

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered by the Chair.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interests.

5. **Previous Minutes**

Disability Inclusion Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

The previous minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the 19 December 2018 meeting. Moved; M. Wood, Seconded; Chris Leishman. Carried.

6. **Correspondence**

CL suggested by email that City of Newcastle may want to consider bus shelter activation via an arrangement with Newcastle University. CL referenced an example from Ryde Council is Sydney where bus shelters had been utilised as public art display space. CL wondered if the University may be able to contribute some funding towards this potential initiative.

(Editors note; Shall forward suggestion to transport policy office)

7. **DIAP Theme 4- Systems and Processes**

7.1 The descriptor for Systems and Processes within the DIAP is;

Council continues to improve its capacity to assist our community to gain access to the information and council services they need to realise their full potential. We encourage the community to actively participate and partner with Council for improved decision making and service delivery.

See attached document regarding this theme and progress.

7.2 CI Duncan requested distribution of an easy read document to provide an example of what this looks like for the group. SW to action. See below example from Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2016-19 Easy Read Version

Disability Inclusion Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

How to use this document



This information is written in an easy to read way.
We use pictures to explain some ideas.



This document has been written by Newcastle City Council. When you see the word 'we', it means Newcastle City Council.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document.



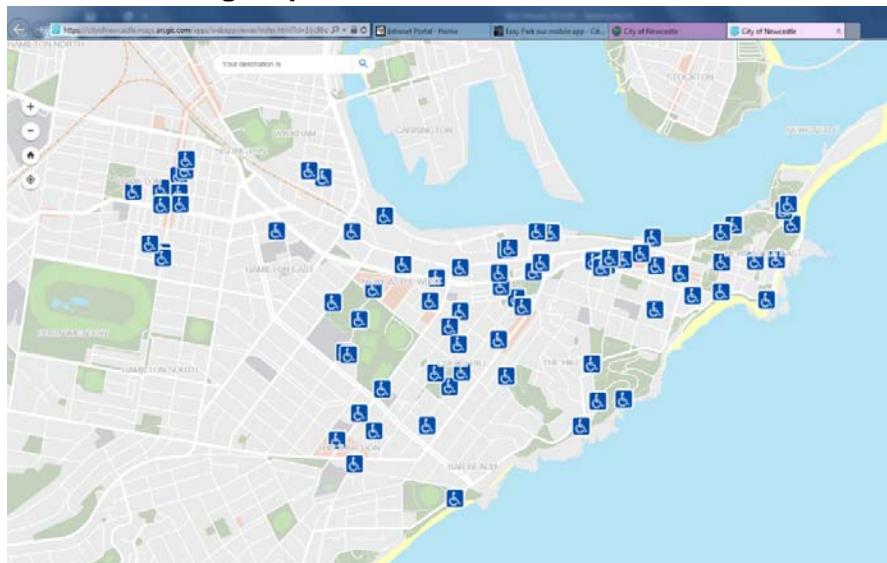
You can find the other document on our website at www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Access-and-Inclusion



You can ask for help to read this document.
A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

Newcastle City Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan 3

8. Accessible Parking Map



Disability Inclusion Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

8.1 At the meeting it was noted that the online accessible parking map was not LGA wide but plans were underway to deliver this facet. Some discussion identified that having every spot listed may not be appreciated by those who have spaces related to their residential address, although these are street parks for any pass holder to use, the resident who this space was established for would potentially have a high dependency upon it.

8.2 General consensus, that accessible parking spaces within the inner city, at town centres and facilities, parks etc should be identified on LGA wide map, but perhaps not those in outer suburbs, and not located in vicinity of a community facility. Thanks to CI Duncan for following this up.

8.3 SW advised that a new link to the accessible parking map has been added to make it easier to find on the website.

9. Public Toilets

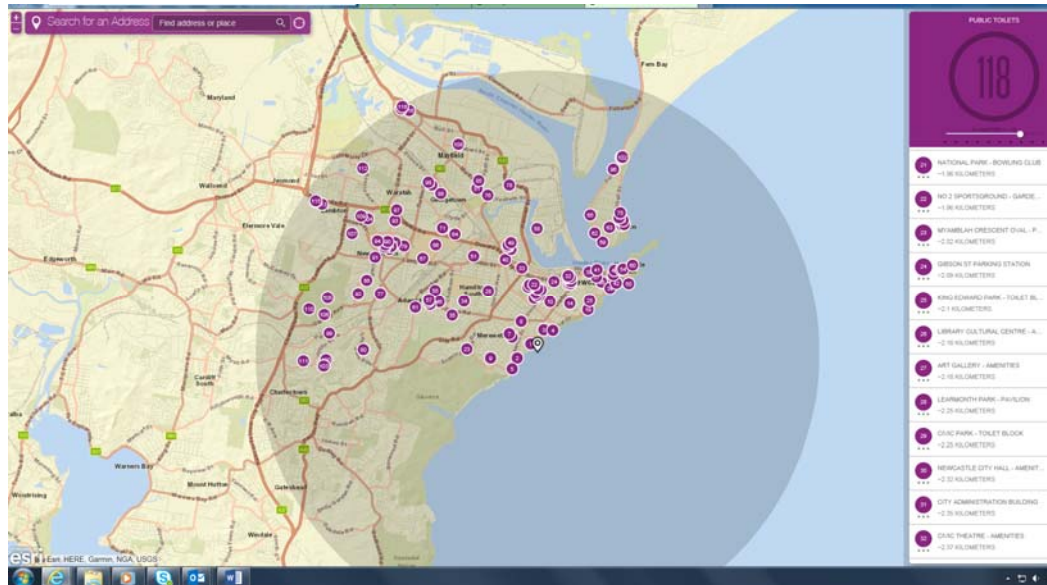
9.1 In response to a question from MW. It was indicated that on City of Newcastle website there is not an effective layer of information about accessible toilets. The current plan is to undertake an assessment of about 80 toilets across the LGA to be able to upload this information to the website for the public. Funds have been allocated for the audit to happen and it is planned to be completed between April and June this year and subsequently uploaded.

9.2 Editors' Note:

See below the public toilet map off the City of Newcastle website, this does not have drop down boxes for each facility, just indicates where toilets are located. <http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Living/Our-City/Find-my-nearest>

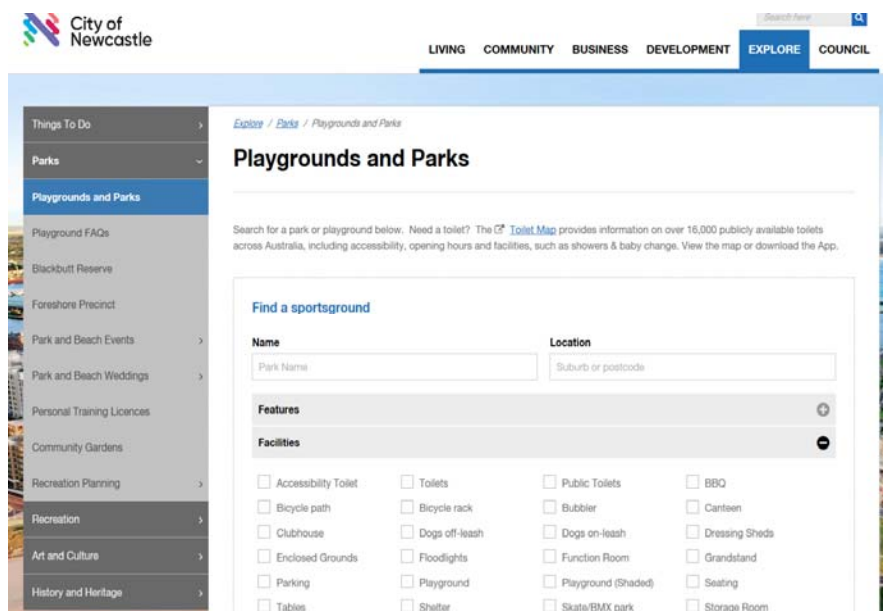
Disability Inclusion Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes



9.3 See below where Parks and Playgrounds have listed features of locations, included an accessibility filter, but it is not populated with reliable and complete information. The audit project will assist these platforms.

<http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Explore/Parks/Playgrounds-Parks>



Disability Inclusion Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

9.4 CI Byrnes requested that the accessible parking tile on the parking page be positioned highly (elevated in the order). SW to check and seek adjustment.

10. General Business/Business Arising

10.1 A discussion about City of Newcastle Community Assistance Grants was held. MW would like to encourage that Disability Groups be made aware of these grants. SW to action.

10.2 Grants Officer able to attend in the future, but unable tonight. There is a grants inward officer (Chris Tola) and also the person who manages the Community Assistance Grants (Currently Susan Denholm).

10.3 New Years' Eve Review

Event went well, second year that we have featured the VIP inclusion zone, popular again. ES noted that there was not enough/any shelter from the weather and this became a real problem with the storm. Need to fix this for the future. Secondly, there was not enough space for people to move within the crowd and the sensory zone was too far from the food area. Noted and to be passed onto event organiser by SW.

10.4 Light Rail Consultation Session

DIAC members had a significant input into this recently held session.

Nathan, Steve, Margaret, and Joseph attended along with about 20 other people.

Consultation was held at the very last minute and did not include opportunity to trial boarding the vehicle. Little to no opportunity to prepare people for use of the light rail prior to its' opening. Poor information about features to assist people with disabilities, stock standard handout of information. Presentation was in powerpoint and repeatedly failed to consider how people with reduced vision or no vision could interpret the information presented.

10.5 Waratah Station Accessibility Upgrade Consultation.

Great representation from DIAC, Margaret, Nathan, Eliot, and Steve attended. Comments/feedback provided is mentioned in determination report. Installation of 3 lifts and upgraded toilet facilities appreciated but accessible parking not adequately catered for and some concern about crossings and connecting pathways.

Disability Inclusion Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

10.6 Regional versus Metropolitan-Classification of Newcastle in relation to applying for funding. SW provided Lord Mayor's correspondence and a newspaper article about the issue. Overall summary is that Newcastle misses out on some funding opportunities depending upon how it is classified by the State and Federal Government and various departments.

MW would like the DIAC to support the Lord Mayor in her efforts to get some consistency on this issue. Further work to be considered.

10.7 Accessible Parking at Nobbys

SW mentioned that accessible parking at Nobbys is not compliant at the moment and is being addressed. This will better support the opportunity of people to use the soon to be completed amenities block including accessible toilet and lift and change facility.

10.8 Stevenson Park Consultation

The additional session that was arranged for committee members and some disability organisational representatives to attend was poorly attended however discussion about the inclusive features to be included in the first stage of the Stevenson Park (Mayfield West) upgrade were covered.

Awaiting information about potential grant from NSW Government of \$150,000. CN has committed \$450,000 towards stage 1.

Main issue identified is lack of access to toilets and accessible toilets. First stage will not address this, existing toilets are related to the use to the sporting fields and opened and closed by ground users. DIAC keen to see this addressed to assist/encourage people to use the new playground when built.

10.9 Mall Redevelopment

City of Newcastle employee Peter Steele is developing the new design for the streets in and around the mall. The Community Planning Team and the Place Making Officer have undertaken a walk through to get an idea of the existing issues and to discuss potential improvements, including access. To come to committee at appropriate time.

10.10 Working Group on International Day of People with Disabilities 2019

SW did not arrange meeting for today to coincide with DIAC as Joseph could not attend and had expressed desire to be involved in subcommittee. Potential date agreed upon of 13 March 4pm. Venue to be confirmed.

Disability Inclusion Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

11. Meeting Schedule

DAIC meeting dates for 2019 are:

Wednesday 4:30pm-6:30pm

20 February

17 April

19 June

21 August

16 October

27 November

Meeting closed 6:31pm