

# SHIRE OF BEVERLEY

DISABILITY ACCESS & INCLUSION PLAN 2023-28



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Shire of Beverley acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land, the Ballardong People, on which the Shire is situated. We recognise and respect their continuing culture and contribution they make to our community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

The Shire of Beverley acknowledges and appreciates the contribution received from community members, Shire staff and Shire Councillors which has been invaluable in the review process and preparation of this Disability Access Inclusion Plan.

# BACKGROUND

## THE SHIRE OF BEVERLEY

The Shire of Beverley is a stable and viable farming community located 130km to the east of Perth and covers an area of approximately 2,310 square kilometers.

For thousands of years the Ballardong Noongar have inhabited the region along the Avon (Colguler) River and Dale (Boyagurring Bilya) River and have a deep attachment to their country.

Beverley was one of the first areas in Western Australia opened for agriculture after a glowing report to Governor Stirling by Ensign Dale. Beverley was settled by Europeans in 1838 and was named after a town in Yorkshire, Northern England. The Beverley town site was established around 1868.

The Beverley Town site is located in a shallow basin with the Avon River running north-south and an intersected valley east-west. It is the rural service centre to the farming community which produces wheat and course grains as well as livestock.

Tourist Attractions include Wall Art Murials, Cornerstone Community Centre, Beverley Station Arts and Platform Theatre, Avondale Museum, Gliding, Dead Finish Museum, Various Art spaces, Yenyening Lakes and County Peak.

# FUNCTIONS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE SHIRE OF BEVERLEY

The Shire of Beverley is responsible for a large range of functions, facilities and services including:

#### Services to property:

- Construction and maintenance of roads and footpaths;
- Construction and maintenance of community buildings and facilities;
- Land drainage and development;
- Waste collection and disposal;
- Planting and caring for street trees;
- Numbering of buildings and lots; and
- Bush fire control and mitigation.

#### Services to the community:

- Provision and maintenance of playing areas, parks, gardens, reserves;
- Community grants;
- Citizenship ceremonies;
- Facilities for sporting and community groups;
- Facilities and management of caravan park and cabins;
- Management of cemeteries;
- Management of pool, public library, community bus; and
- Advocates of health and aged care services.

#### **Regulatory services:**

- Planning of road systems and town planning schemes;
- Building approvals for construction, additions or alterations to buildings; and
- Environmental health services and ranger services.

#### General administration:

- The provision of general information to the public;
- The lodging of complaints and maintenance reports; and
- Payment of fees including rates, dog licences, cat licences and Department of Transport licensing.

#### Processes of government:

- Providing Local Government to the Shire of Beverley;
- Ordinary and Special Council and committee meetings;
- Electors' meetings and election of Council Members;
- Public meetings, community consultation;
- Monthly update from the Shire President in the Beverley Blarney; and
- Integrated Planning Long Term Financial Plan, Workforce Plan, Strategic Community Plan, Asset Management and Corporate Business Plans.

## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY IN THE SHIRE OF BEVERLEY

There are 1,669 people living in the Shire of Beverley (2021 Census of Population and Housing). 190 require some form of assistance, 678 are living with a long-term health condition. 176 people provided unpaid assistance to a person with disability, health condition or aged person.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (released in October 2019) Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (2018) identifies the following important statistics:

- In 2018 there were 4.4 million Australians with disability, 17.7% of the population
- 5.7% of all Australians had a profound or severe disability.
- Almost one-quarter (23.2%) of all people with disability reported a mental or behavioural disorder as their main condition.

#### **LEGISLATION AND FRAMEWORK**

With the largest age group in Beverley being 65 years and over and recognition that disability comes in many forms, the Shire of Beverley is committed to ensuring its DAIP strategies meet the required legislation and is considered in all strategic documents.

The Western Australia Disability Services Act (1993) requires all Local Governments to develop and implement a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) to ensure that people with disability have equal access to its facilities and services.

Other legislation underpinning access and inclusion includes the Western Australia State Equal Opportunity Act (1984) and the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA), both of which make discrimination on the basis of a person's disability unlawful.

The Council, management and staff promote a proactive approach to Disability Access and Inclusion into the culture and daily routine of the Shire of Beverley.

# ACCESS AND INCLUSION POLICY STATEMENT

The Shire of Beverley is committed to ensuring that the community is accessible for and inclusive of people with disability, their families and carers.

The Shire of Beverley interprets an accessible and inclusive community as one in which all Council functions, facilities and services (in-house and contracted) are open, available and accessible to people with disability, providing all people with the same opportunities, rights and responsibilities as other people in the community.

## THE SHIRE OF BEVERLEY:

- Recognises that people with disability are valued members of the community who contribute to social, economic and cultural life;
- Believes that a community that recognises its diversity and supports the participation and inclusion of all of its members makes for a richer community;
- Believes that people with disability, their families and carers should be supported to be able to remain in the community of their choice;
- Is committed to consulting with people with disability, their families and carers and disability organisations in addressing barriers to access and inclusion;
- Will ensure its staff, agents and contractors work towards the desired seven outcomes in the DAIP; and

# The Shire of Beverley is committed to achieving the seven outcomes of its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, which are:

- 1. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by, the Shire of Beverley.
- 2. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of the Shire of Beverley.
- 3. People with disability receive information from the Shire of Beverley in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.
- 4. People with disability receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of the Shire of Beverley.
- 5. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the Shire of Beverley.
- 6. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by the Shire of Beverley.
- 7. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to obtain and maintain employment within the Shire of Beverley.

# DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2023 – 2028 DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN

## **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS**

In 2023, the Shire consulted with the Beverley Community to undertake a full and open review of the Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP). This has included:

- Desktop review of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2018 2023 including achievements and required improvements.
- Inviting the Community to participate in a DAIP survey.
- Beverley Blarney newspaper advertising, Beverley Bulletin advertising, Front Counter and Notice Board information at the Shire Office about the review and an invitation to comment or make a submission.
- Public Workshops with community members.
- Discussions with Councillors.
- A 'town tour' to physically assess connecting routes and facilities around town.
- Drafting a revised and updated DAIP which includes feedback and suggestions received throughout the consultation process.
- The draft plan was reviewed by Department of Communities.



DAIP Community Consultation

#### FINDINGS OF THE CONSULTATION

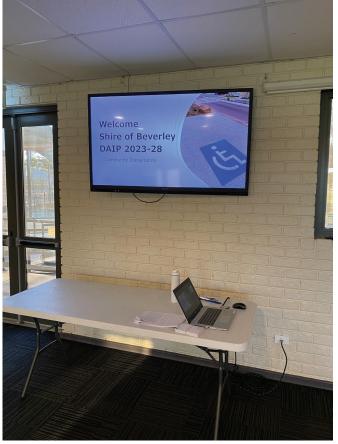
The review and consultation found that many of the strategies and tasks within with 2018-23 DAIP had been achieved, however a small number were unsuccessful, ongoing or incomplete.

From the community survey, there was an overall satisfaction rate of over 89% in the six DAIP Outcome areas. However, Outcome 7 relating to employment, only scored a satisfaction rate of 75%.

The community workshops were very positive with a general feeling of appreciation for the Shire's continued upgrades to roads, footpaths and buildings. However, there was a general consensus that information could be received quicker and that the rocks in the main street deter ACROD parking users from parking in those bays.

Listed on the following pages are the achievements from the previous DAIP and the current identified barriers.

The new 2023-2028 plan will continue to strengthen the overall Shire and community culture and aim to address access barriers at the local level.



Workshop

#### **NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS FROM DAIP 2018-23**

Since the adoption of the DAIP 2018-23 the Shire has implemented initiatives and made progress towards better understanding, communication, consultation and access.

OUTCOME AREA	ACHIEVEMENTS
1. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by, the Shire of Beverley.	<ul> <li>Spring Back to Beverley 150th Anniversary Event planned using Project Accessibility</li> <li>Holds all public workshops in accessible venues.</li> </ul>
2. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of the Shire of Beverley.	<ul> <li>Installation of electronic sliding doors at the Town Hall and Lesser Hall.</li> <li>Construction of new accessible short stay cabin at the Caravan Park.</li> <li>Construction of Moort Wabiny family park, includes wide paths, wide entrance.</li> <li>Continuation of the 10 Year Footpath upgrade/repair or replacement program.</li> <li>Completion of the Main Street redevelopment – wide and level footpaths, new ACROD bays, seating, improved lighting and kerbing.</li> <li>Construction of ramp access to the Amenities Building at the Recreation Ground.</li> <li>Safer crossing location for Hunt Road Village on Great Southern Highway (Hunt Rd).</li> </ul>
3. People with disability receive information from the Shire of Beverley in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.	<ul> <li>New Shire Facebook page to distribute information.</li> <li>Shire SMS system for emergencies.</li> <li>Beverley Blarney available electronically.</li> </ul>
4. People with disability receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of the Shire of Beverley.	<ul> <li>2019 and 2021 Councillor Elect packs distributed to potential Councillors to be aware of the Shire's DAIP and expectations.</li> <li>New Staff receive DAIP as part of induction process.</li> </ul>
5. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the Shire of Beverley.	<ul> <li>The Shire continues a robust complaint register which is audited monthly to ensure any necessary action is taken and completed.</li> <li>Added forms to website as an alternative method of contact.</li> </ul>

6. People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by the Shire of Beverley.	<ul> <li>Consultation held in safe accessible venues and presentations have paper and electronic copies made available.</li> <li>The Shire will accept feedback from consultation in any format.</li> </ul>
7. People with disability have the same opportunities as	The Shire continues to practices Equal Opportunity in its recruitment processes.
other people to obtain and maintain employment within the Shire of Beverley.	• Shire staff are actively invited to give notice of their disability through surveys to ensure their workplace and equipment meets their needs annually.



Cabin with universal access





Vincent St. Heritage Trail Head



Town Hall Door



#### **CURRENT BARRIERS**

The barriers identified in the 2023 consultation process:

- A very small number of footpath upgrades and repairs are still required in areas around the town. Issues with the identified footpaths include uneven surfaces incorrect gradients.
- The Community Bus still does not have wheelchair access. Unfortunately due to costs, the new bus arriving in 2024 will not have wheelchair access. However, should new funding arise to make conversions, Council will consider the option.
- Access issues for people with disability at the Swimming Pool and function room toilets in the Amenities Building.
- Door entrance access issues for people with disability at the main entrance of the Amenities Building.
- Shire website no longer meeting standards.
- Event Planning form needs updating.
- Station Arts universal access toilet requires a ramp.
- Hooks are required in the Disabled Toilets for hanging bags.
- Large rocks next to ACROD Bays in the main street.
- Cemeteries do not have a dedicated ACROD Bay and uneven surfaces at the Niche Wall.
- Information dissemination needs to be more frequent.
- Wombat crossings confusion in community as to who gives way.
- Yearly budget allocation or reserve for disability, access and inclusion improvements.

These findings will guide the development of strategies in this DAIP.







ACROD Bay with rock

Amenities Door

Cornerstone footpath





# SHIRE OF BEVERLEY

#### DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN

### STRATEGIES, OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2023 – 2028

The following strategies have been developed to address each of the seven desired outcome areas of the Disability Services Act from feedback gained in the consultation process.

The Implementation Plan is the task, timelines and responsibilities for each strategy to be implemented throughout 2023-2028.

#### OUTCOME 1: PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCESS THE SERVICES OF, AND ANY EVENTS ORGANISED, BY THE SHIRE OF BEVERLEY.

STRATEGY	TASK	TASK TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
Ensure that people with Disability are consulted on	• Meet with people who have disability every two years as part of the DAIP reporting review.	Bi-Annually	
their need for services and the accessibility of current services.	• Establish a yearly budget allocation or reserve to meet outcomes within the DAIP.	24/25	Executive Staff
Monitor Shire services to	Conduct internal reviews of the accessibility of services.		
ensure equitable access and inclusion.	Inform Council of identified barriers and provide feedback to customers	Annually	All Staff
Retain links between the DAIP and other Shire Integrated Plans.	• Continue to incorporate the objectives and strategies of the DAIP into the Shire's integrated planning processes.	Ongoing	CEO DCEO
Shire organised or funded events are accessible to people with Disability.	<ul> <li>Ensure that all events are planned using the Shire event planning tool.</li> <li>Regularly update the event planning tool.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	All Staff
Promote Disability Services and programs or events.	<ul> <li>Identify any suitable programs or events to advertise and promote in the Beverley Blarney and Shire Website.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	PO
			ТО
	promote in the bevency blarney and online website.		EA



FACILITIES OF THE SHIRE OF BEVERLEY.				
STRATEGY	TASK	TASK TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY	
Ensure that all Shire buildings and facilities are physically accessible to people with Disability.	• Council to cost and plan an approach to make at least one electronic door conversion at the Amenities Building.	2024/25 Budget	CEO	
	Ensure the proposed Swimming Pool Redevelopment includes safe access considerations.	As it occurs	Project Committee	
	• Ensure any future Administration building development includes safe access considerations.	As it occurs	Project Committee	
	• Ensure the proposed Civic Centre Refurbishment includes safe access considerations.	As it occurs	Project Committee	
	• Ensure any Regional Precinct Planning considers safe access and inclusion.	As it occurs	Project Committee	
	• Install ramp to Beverley Station Arts Disabled Toilet.	2023/24	Project Committee	
	• Consideration is to be given to seek a suitable location and funding for Changing Places. This may include the Swimming Pool redevelopment, Avon Park redevelopment or other location.	2024-2028	Project Committee	

#### OUTCOME 2: PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCESS THE BUILDINGS AND OTHER FACILITIES OF THE SHIRE OF BEVERLEY.



FACILITIES OF THE SHIRE OF BEVERLEY.				
STRATEGY	TASK	TASK TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY	
Ensure that all new or redevelopment work to public buildings and applications incorporates universal access and meets BCA standards.	• Ensure that the legal requirements for access are met in all plans for new or redeveloped buildings and facilities.	2024-2028	MPDS	
	• Ensure that development applications meet the legal requirements, and building or planning permits are not issued before doing so.	Ongoing	BS	
Continuation of the 10 year	• Council to consider the extension of the footpath program until all identified paths are upgraded.	_ 2023-28	CEO	
	Repair gradient on the Dawson Street side of the Cornerstone Building.		DCEO SP	
footpath program.	Repair/replace uneven pavers at the Swimming Pool.		MOW	
	• Repair/replace the footpath and car access to the Recreation Ground (Southern/Bowling Club side).			
		Ongoing	CEO	
Advocate to local business the benefits flowing from the provision of accessible venues.	Increase awareness to local businesses on becoming more     accessible and inclusive by providing results of DAIP surveys		EA	
	and workshops.		PO	
			ТО	
	• If funding becomes available for access and inclusion improvements, disseminate the information to local business.			

#### OUTCOME 2: PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCESS THE BUILDINGS AND OTHER FACILITIES OF THE SHIRE OF BEVERLEY.

FACILITIES OF THE SHIRE OF BEVERLEY.				
STRATEGY	TASK	TASK TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY	
Ensure that all Shire buildings and facilities are physically accessible to people with Disability.	• Ensure any redevelopment in recreational areas includes universal access.	Ongoing	CEO BS	
	Redevelop the entrance to the Recreation Ground on the Southern Side.		Project Committee	
	• Plan for future upgrade of the toilets located within the "old amenities" building.		Project Committee	
Ensure that ACROD parking meets the needs of people with Disability in terms of visibility quantity and location.	• Evaluate ACROD bays and signs in the vicinity of Shire owned assets and buildings.	Annually	MOW	
	• Remove large rocks that are situated near ACROD Bays on Vincent Street.	23/24	MOW	
	Install ACROD Bay at the Anglican Cemetery.	24/25	MOW	

# OUTCOME 2' PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS OTHER PEOPLE TO ACCESS THE BUILDINGS AND OTHER

OUTCOME 3: PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM THE SHIRE OF BEVERLEY IN A FORMAT THAT WILL ENABLE THEM TO
ACCESS THE INFORMATION AS READILY AS OTHER PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO ACCESS IT.

STRATEGY	TASK	TASK TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
Improve community awareness of Shire	• Advertise that Shire documents and information is available in other formats in the Beverley Blarney.	Ongoing	EA
information being available in alternative formats.	• Investigate a fortnightly newsletter via email in addition to the Blarney.	24/25	EA

ACCESS THE INFORMATION AS READED AS OTHER FEOFILE ARE ABLE TO ACCESS TH				
STRATEGY	TASK	TASK TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY	
Improve employee awareness of accessible information needs and how to provide information in other formats.	• Ensure all new employees, councillors and contractors are aware of the DAIP in their respective induction process.	Ongoing	HRO	
Ensure that the Shire's website meets accessibility	• Upgrade the website to ensure it complies with the accessible web content guidelines and meets local needs.	2024-25	DCEO	
guidelines.	Evaluate the website	24/25	EA	

#### OUTCOME 3: PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM THE SHIRE OF BEVERLEY IN A FORMAT THAT WILL ENABLE THEM TO ACCESS THE INFORMATION AS READILY AS OTHER PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO ACCESS IT.

OUTCOME 4: PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY RECEIVE THE SAME LEVEL AND QUALITY OF SERVICE FROM THE EMPLOYEES OF THE SHIRE OF BEVERLEY AS OTHER PEOPLE RECEIVE.					
STRATEGY	TASK	TASK TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY		
Ensure that all employees, current and new are aware of disability and access issues and have the skills to to provide appropriate service and information.	• Provide access and inclusion updates at staff meetings.	Ongoing	CEO		
	• Assess Staff training needs in relation to DAIP knowledge at each performance review.	Ongoing	DCEO		
	• Provide all new employees a copy of the DAIP in the induction process.	Ongoing	HRO		
Ensure that all Shire of Beverley's Policies and procedures relevant to Customer Service are consistent with the DAIP	• Conduct an annual review of the Policy Manual and consider the DAIP when doing so.	Annually	CEO		



OUTCOME 5: PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS OTHER PEOPLE TO MAKE COMPLAINTS TO THE SHIRE OF BEVERLEY.					
STRATEGY	TASK	TASK TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY		
Ensure that feedback and grievance mechanisms are known and accessible for people with disability and are acted upon.	• Continue with current grievance mechanisms by accepting complaints via phone, post, web-form, email, in-person and continue to audit and review monthly.	Ongoing	DCEO		
	• Promote alternative methods of communication including the National Relay Service and assistive technology apps.	Ongoing	Project Committee		

OUTCOME 6: PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS OTHER PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY PUBLIC CONSULTATION BY A PUBLIC AUTHORITY.				
STRATEGY	TASK	TASK TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY	
Ensure that people with disability are actively consulted about the DAIP.	• Advertise the DAIP in all mediums (print, online, email)	Ongoing	EA	
	• Update the register of people to provide comment on access and inclusion issues.			
Ensure that all Shire public consultations, forums, workshops and meetings are inclusive and accessible and people with Disability are aware of them.	• Ensure consultation can take form in different mediums, including in person, phone or electronically.	Ongoing	HRO CEO DCEO	
	• Ensure the consultation documentation is available in different formats.	Ongoing	All Staff	
	• Ensure feedback is able to be given in a range of formats.	Ongoing	All Staff	
	• Ensure consultation is held in an accessible location.	Ongoing	All Staff	



#### OUTCOME 7: PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS OTHER PEOPLE TO OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN EMPLOYMENT WITH THE SHIRE OF BEVERLEY.

STRATEGY	TASK	TASK TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
Improve methods of attracting, recruiting and retaining people with Disability.	• Review the suitability of the Shire of Beverley as a workplace, including - workstations, plant and equipment, building access, parking and work hours.	Ongoing	HRO CEO DCEO
	• Examine current methods of recruitment.	Ongoing	HRO
	• Ensure the relevant legislation is met when recruiting.	Ongoing	HRO



## **RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTING THE DAIP**

Implementation of the DAIP is the responsibility of every staff member and all operational areas of the Shire. The Disability Services Act (1993) requires all public authorities to take practical measures to ensure that the DAIP is implemented by its officers, employees, agents and contractors.

#### **RELATIONSHIPS TO OTHER SHIRE DOCUMENTS**

The Shire continually reviews other documents such as its Strategic Community Plan, Corporate Business Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, Policy Manual, Staff Surveys, Employment advertising and forms. When the reviews are held respectively, the strategies and tasks from the DAIP should be considered and then incorporated where possible so that each of the seven DAIP outcomes are met.

## COMMUNICATING THE PLAN TO STAFF AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

During review and following adoption, the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan will be sent to all those who contributed to the planning process.

## **REVIEW AND EVALUATION MECHANISMS**

The Disability Services Act requires that DAIPs be reviewed at least every five years. Whenever the DAIP is amended, a copy of the amended plan must be lodged with the Disability Services.

#### **EVALUATION**

- An evaluation will occur as part of the five-yearly review of the DAIP.
- The community, staff and Elected Members will be consulted as per the endorsed consultation strategies, as part of any evaluation.

## **REPORTING ON THE DAIP**

The Disability Services Act requires the Shire to report on the progress of implementation of its DAIP in its annual report outlining:

- Progress towards the desired outcomes of its DAIP;
- Progress of its agents and contractors towards meeting the seven desired outcomes; and
- The strategies used to inform agents and contractors of its DAIP.

This plan is available online www.beverley.wa.gov.au or upon request in alternative formats.



