Wollongong City Council would like to show their respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Land, Elders past and present and to extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
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This ‘Easy Read’ Plan is a shorter, easy to read version of a bigger Plan called The Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2016-2020.

All the important information is in this ‘Easy Read’ Plan.

There are also some pictures to help people understand.

If you want to look at the bigger Plan, you can find it on the internet at

www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au
I am very proud to show everyone the Council’s Plan to help improve things in the community for people with disability.

We will work hard to make Wollongong a better place for people with disability to live. We asked people with disability in Wollongong for some ideas about how to do this. We used their ideas to make this Plan.

Now we will make buildings easier to get into. We will make Council information easier to understand. We will help people with disabilities to get jobs. We will show the rest of the community how to support people with disability to join in. Everyone at Wollongong Council will help.

It is really important to support people with disability. Thank you to everyone for their great ideas. I am proud of the Plan we made. I know Wollongong will be a better place with our Plan.

Lord Mayor
Councillor Gordon Bradbery OAM
Message from the General Manager

I am really happy to start work on the ideas in the Plan. Making Wollongong a better place for people with disability is an important job for the Council.

People with disability living in Wollongong had some really good ideas. We will keep asking people with disability what they think about the work we are doing.

Everyone at the Council will help to do the things in the Plan. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make the Plan.

General Manager
David Farmer
All the governments in Australia are working on the National Disability Strategy. This is a big plan for the whole country to improve things for people with disability.

Wollongong Council needs to be part of this too. We needed to make our own Plan about Wollongong and the people with disability who live here.
People with disability in Wollongong

208,875 people live in Wollongong

38,257 people who live in Wollongong say they have a disability

11,205 of these people say they need help every day
Everyone has the right to use services and facilities. This includes people with disability, their families and carers.

This is the law in the whole of Australia. It’s against the law to stop people from using services and facilities because of their disability.

Many people with disability...

Money
Have less money

Jobs
Find it harder to get a job

Internet
Don’t have internet at home

Car
Don’t have a car

Place to live
Need help to find a place to live

Education
Don’t have educational qualifications

The Law
What we have already done

We have programs for everyone at our:
• Libraries
• Art Gallery
• Leisure Centres
• Cultural Services
• Youth Services

We have programs that raise awareness of living with disability
We have made our parks, beaches and playgrounds easier for you to use.

All-Abilities playgrounds

Ramps in our Pools

Outdoor Gyms
More things we have done

Botanic Garden: Accessible Rainforest Walk

Beach Wheelchairs
Cabins at the Tourist Parks

Thirroul Community Centre

Berkeley Community Centre
We talked to people with disability

You told us that you were happy with our

👍 Pools
👍 Beaches
👍 Botanic Garden
👍 Recycling and Rubbish Services

You told us to do better with our

👎 Footpaths
👎 Toilets
👎 Car Parking
👎 Events (Viva la Gong, Australia Day, New Year’s Eve)
👎 Cycle ways / shared pathways
👎 Parks / open space / sports fields.
You told Council what you want. This is what we will do:

1. Make it easier for you to get around and be part of our Community

**Toilets**
- Have accessible toilets
- Let you know where these toilets are

**Parking**
- Have accessible car parking
- Let you know where that parking is
- Fine people who should not park there

**Paths**
- Make more paths to the places you would like to go
- Let everyone know that the path is there to share
Buildings
Make our buildings easy to get to and use

Our Places
Make these places easier to get to and use
• Bus stops and shelters
• Beaches and pools
• Parks, playgrounds and the Botanic Gardens
• Gyms
• Libraries
• The Art Gallery
• Community Centres, Youth Services and Cultural Services

Our Activities
Have activities available at
• IPAC (Illawarra Performing Arts Centre)
• The Art Gallery
• Cultural Services
• Libraries
Make these activities easy for you to join in.
2. Make it easier for you to be part of what we do

- Make it easier for you to find information
- Let you know about our services
- Keep our website up-to-date
- Make it easier for you to join in our activities
- Keep talking to people with disability and make sure your ideas are a part of our community
3. Show the community how to treat you well

- Tell our community about the great things people with disability do
- Put pictures of people with disability in our information
- Let shop owners know how to help people with disability to use their shop
- Help event organisers know how to include people with disability in their events
- Help community organisations to run projects for people with disability
4. Make jobs for people with disability

- Buy our services from places who employ people with disability
- Let everyone have an opportunity to show their skills
- Have jobs at the Council for people with disability
- Send our job ads to community networks, schools, TAFE and Universities
- Train our staff about working with people with disability
Making sure our Plan is working

- We will make sure everyone at the Council uses the Plan
- We will tell you each year what we have done from the Plan on the Council website
- We will ask you if the Plan is working
Thank you to the Speech Pathologists from Family and Community Services in the Illawarra Shoalhaven District for helping to adapt our plan to an Easy Read version.