

MEDIA RELEASE

Coonamble Shire Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP)- Have your Say:

To make the Coonamble Shire a more inclusive and accessible place to live and work, Council is currently developing a new Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP). This initiative strengthens Council's commitment to fostering an accessible and inclusive community for all residents, including those with disabilities.

The DIAP will provide Council with a clear set of actions and strategies to be undertaken over the next four years, across 4 key areas, including:

- positive community attitudes and behaviours towards greater inclusion of people with disability
- liveable communities including accessible tourism, access to print and online information and access to the built environment
- supporting access to meaningful employment
- improving access to services through better systems and processes to ensure people with disability can participate.

Community consultation will play an important role in this project, ensuring that the voices and perspectives of residents are heard and incorporated into the planning process. The Plan will be developed in accordance with the NSW Disability Inclusion Act, but guided by the local community, including those with lived experience of disability and those that care for someone with a disability or health condition. Council also wants to hear from:

- people with a physical or mental health condition who have additional needs
- disability service workers and organisations who provide direct support and advocate for people living with a disability
- anyone interested in disability access and inclusion.

"We all share the responsibility for creating an inclusive and welcoming community, so we are seeking community input to help us create a set of realistic and achievable priorities. We want to hear from the community about local challenges as well as opportunities for improving access and inclusion for those with disabilities," said Tony Payne, Director Sustainable Communities and Planning.

Council's Community Development Officer, Carmen Falvey, encouraged residents to share their views via the community survey. "This is a unique opportunity to focus on and elevate the existing strengths of the community. Ultimately, anything that makes community life more accessible for people with disability, makes life more inclusive for everyone."

To allow people with different abilities to participate, there are many ways for residents to have their say. Visit <https://forms.gle/NDRQnxCBt2xC4L34A> where you can complete the online survey or print the easy-read fillable form.

Council is also offering a phone or face to face option to provide feedback for those who may prefer it. You can request to meet via phone, online or face to face by contacting Carmen Falvey on 0428 278 245 or email c.falvey@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au. Keep an eye out on Council's Facebook page for details on community information sessions in Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone over the consultation period.

Findings from the survey will play an important role in updating Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP).

The Coonamble Shire Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan Survey closes Friday 5th June 2026.

Media Contact –

Charlotte McLean

Communication@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au

0460 729 003

Greg Hill

GENERAL MANAGER