

DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN

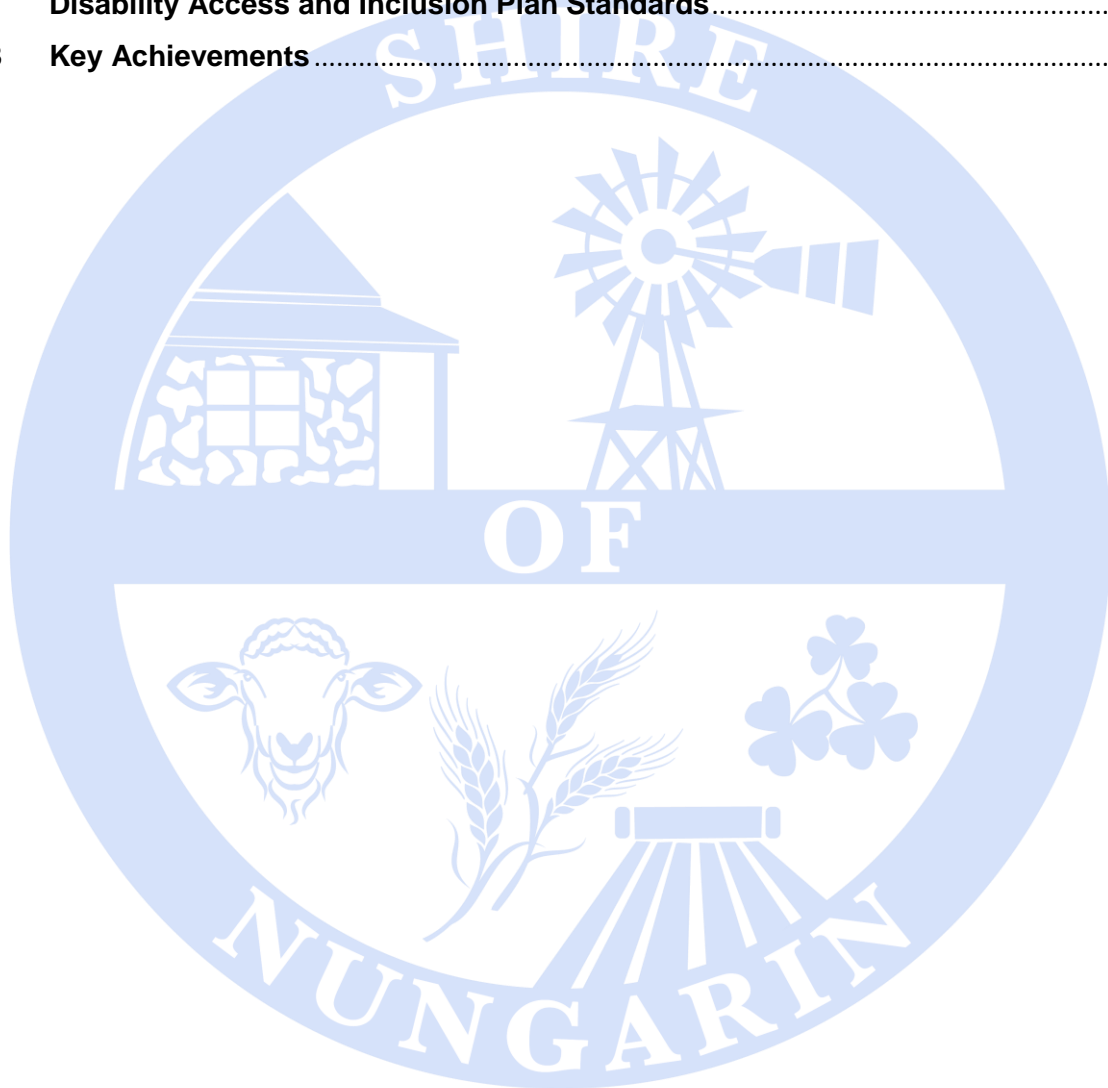


2022 -2027

This plan is available in alternative formats such as electronic or hard copy in both standard and large print, by email and on the Shire of Nungarin website.

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1.1 Introduction

The Shire of Nungarin is situated in the North-eastern part of the Central Wheatbelt Region of Western Australia with a population less than 300. Nungarin is a three-hour drive from Perth and about a half hour drive from Merredin. The Shire of Nungarin is rich in history and covers an area of 1,145km². Its agricultural base is predominantly Wheat and Sheep farming.

Our Vision: A great place to live with a well-connected, strong, healthy and friendly community.

Our Values: We will conduct our business with:

Respect

- Value people and places and the contribution they make to the Shire.
- Develop an environment of respect for different cultures.
- Be appreciative of the aspirations of the community and what it does for itself.

Inclusiveness

- Be receptive, proactive and responsive as an organisation.
- Exist to help a community that has the capacity for self- help.
- Demonstrate leadership by promoting Council and community teamwork.

Fairness and equity

- Maintain a 'whole of Shire' outlook, but recognise each community is unique and likely to have variations on their needs.
- Provide services for a variety of ages and needs.
- Respond to the community in a fair and equal way depending on need.

Communication

- Create opportunities for consultation with the broad community.
- Demonstrate leadership by promoting Council and community teamwork.

1.2 The Shire's Role

Services to properties: construction and maintenance of roads and footpaths; stormwater drainage; domestic waste collection and disposal, including recycling of certain domestic waste; litter control and street cleaning; street tree and roadside tree pruning; bushfire control; dog control; cat control and maintenance of parks and gardens.

Recreation services to the community include: provision and maintenance of outdoor playing areas for footy, netball, tennis, lawn bowls, hockey the public swimming pool facility, children's playground and BBQ area and caravan park.

General services to the community: Medical services are available in Kununoppin. The Shire office provides general vehicle licencing services and takes bookings for the community bus and caravan park.

Local Government Regulatory services to the community include: building control; environmental health and ranger service.

Local Government Administration services include: provision of general information to the public, lodging and resolution of complaints, collection of rates; vehicle licensing, cat and dog registrations.

Processes of Local Government include: ordinary and special council and committee meetings, annual elector meetings and election of council members.

Shire of Nungarin Facilities:

- Nungarin Public Library
- Nungarin Heritage Machinery and Army Museum
- Nungarin Swimming Pool
- Nungarin Community Resource Centre
- Nungarin Recreation Centre
- Nungarin Caravan Base

1.3 People with disability in the Shire of Nungarin

The WA Disability Services Act (1993) defines disability as a condition:

- That is attributed to an intellectual, cognitive, neurological, sensory or physical impairment or a combination of those impairments
- That is permanent or likely to be permanent; and
- That may or may not be episodic in nature, and
- That results in a substantially reduced capacity of the person for communication, social interaction learning or mobility and a need for continuing support services.

Disability affects one third of the Western Australian population. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimates there are 405,500 Western Australians that have reported to having a disability (20.6% of the total population of Western Australia).

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimates the total population of the Shire of Nungarin to be 246 (2020). In 2018, 51 (21.6%) people within the community have a disability.

1.4 Access and Inclusion Policy Statement

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 information, facilities and services.

The Shire's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan is updated every five years. The plan is reviewed annually and an annual report is submitted to the Disability Services Commission.

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

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

1.5 Planning for Better Access

The Shire of Nungarin:

- recognises that people with disability are valued members of the community who make a variety of contributions to local 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 life;
- believes that people with disability, their families and carers should be supported to remain in the community;
- is committed to consulting with people with disability, their families and carers and disability organisations in addressing barriers to access and inclusion;
- is committed to supporting local community groups and businesses to provide access and inclusion of people with disability; and
- is committed to achieving the seven standards of its DAIP (refer to the DAIP standards section below).

1.6 Development, Implementation and Evaluation

Responsibility for the Planning Process: The Chief Executive Officer has responsibility to oversee the development, implementation, review and evaluation of the plan. The final plan is endorsed by Council and it is the responsibility of all officers to implement the relevant actions.

Community Consultation: The Shire is in the process of undertaking a review of its proposed plan in consultation with the community and key stakeholders in order to determine further improvements to access and inclusion.

The process included:

- examination of the initial DAIP and subsequent progress reports to see what has been achieved and what still needs work.
- consultation with key staff.
- FaceBook page offering the community / stakeholders the opportunity to provide advice or to comment on the proposed plan and on any other issues related to the DAIP.
- public notice through the 2022 issue of the Nungarin Newslink offering the community / stakeholder the opportunity to provide advice or to comment on the proposed plan and on any other issues related to the DAIP. No submissions were received prior to adoption of the plan but feedback, advice and comments are welcome at any time.

Implementation: The proposed DAIP will be endorsed by Council and then publicly communicated through the Shire's website, FaceBook page and the Nungarin NewsLink. Capital works required to align an asset with the DAIP will be performed during renovations or refurbishment depending on funding through the budget.

The Shire is required to report the progress and results to the Department of Communities if any actions arise throughout the year related to the outcomes below.

1.7 Disability Access and Inclusion Plan Standards

The following standards have been designed to meet the legislative requirements, to meet the expectations of the community and to communicate the plan with all stakeholders.

Standard 1: the Shire will ensure:

- People with disability are provided with an opportunity to comment on access to services.
- The objectives of the DAIP are incorporated into the Shire's strategic business planning, budgeting processes and other relevant plans and strategies.
- Events are organised which are accessible to people with disability.

Standard 2: the Shire will ensure:

- People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of the Shire.
- All future premises leased by the Shire are accessible.
- All premises and other infrastructure related to transport facilities are accessible.

Standard 3: the Shire will ensure:

- People with disability receive information from the Shire in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.
- It raises awareness that information is available in alternative formats upon request.
- It provides training to staff regarding accessible information needs and how to obtain information in other formats.

Standard 4: the Shire will ensure:

- People with disability receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of the Shire as other people would
- It provides training to staff regarding disability and access issues and improve skills to provide a good service to people with disability

Standard 5: the Shire will ensure:

- People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the Shire.
- It provides training to staff so they can facilitate the receipt of complaints from people with disability

Standard 6: the Shire will ensure:

- People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to participate in public consultation by the Shire.
- It will continually monitor the DAIP to ensure implementation and satisfactory outcomes are achieved.

Standard 7: the Shire will ensure:

- People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to obtain and maintain employment with the Shire
- It will use inclusive recruitment practices when advertising new positions

1.8 Key Achievements

Some of the key achievements the Shire has accomplished since inception of the DAIP is as follows:

- Installed electronic doors to the Community Resource Centre / Post Office.
- Installed electronic doors to the Administration Building.
- Now have audio books available to the community in the library.

1.9 Future Project Consideration

The Shire is committed to continuously improve access to its facilities and facilitate access to private buildings. The following improvements will be considered in future budgets (funding dependant):

- Curb modifications allowing access ramps to be installed at the following locations:
 - Shire Administration Office.
 - Community Resource Centre / Post Office.
 - Memorial Hall.
- Installation of electronic doors to the Recreation Centre.
- Installation of disabled ablution at the caravan park.
- Improving footpath ramps, and
- Improving footpaths.