

Policy 1.02 Inclusive communities

Directorate	Community Environment and Planning
Responsible Officer	Manager Community and Cultural Services

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Record of Administrative Amendments

<u>Amendment Version No.:</u>	<u>Description of Administrative Amendment</u>	<u>Date Reviewed</u>
3.2	Review of policy in accordance with Section 165 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> Placed on Public Exhibition 23 July 2025	July 2025
3.1	Review of policy in accordance with Section 165 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> Workshopped by Councillors on 18 June 2025	June 2025
3	Adopted by Council (D22/87703)	21/09/2022

1 Introduction

1.1 Scope

This policy prescribes the processes implemented by Council to foster an inclusive and accessible community.

The scope of this policy demonstrates direct commitment to the following strategic guiding principles.:

Accountable | Proactive consultation and engagement internally between business areas and externally with key stakeholders

Transparent | Commitment to open communication

Responsive | Commitment to serve the needs of the entire community

Equitable and inclusive | Strong consideration of the needs of all stakeholders

Effective and efficient | Improved collaboration and partnership with community, business, neighbouring councils and other government bodies.

1.2 Purpose

Provide guidance on the development, implementation, monitoring and review of processes to promote equal opportunity, foster an inclusive community and improve access for all.

1.3 Definitions

Nil.

2 Legislation

Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992

Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

NSW Anti-Discrimination Act ~~1997~~1977

NSW Local Government Act 1993

~~NSW Disability Services Act 2006~~ Disability Inclusion Regulation 2023

NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014

3 Implementation

3.1 Policy statement

Bega Valley Shire Council is committed to an inclusive community which values all its members and supports their participation in community life regardless of age, ability, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation. To achieve this Council will:

- consider accessibility and inclusion in all Council services, policies, projects and processes to reduce barriers to participation
- regularly review and implement actions identified in Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- promote and support activities which foster social inclusion, social connectedness and belonging
- ensure engagement methodologies are accessible to all, including people living with disability, to enable them to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives
- maintain an Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee to inform and advise staff and [councillors](#)
- improve accessibility in all future public infrastructure works wherever practical
- advocate to other levels of government to address identified needs and improve access and inclusion for all.

3.2 Responsibilities

3.2.1 Elected Council

Adopt a Disability and Inclusion Action Plan every four years in line with the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014*.

[Seek to appoint volunteers to the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee from a diverse range of backgrounds.](#)

3.2.2 Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Leadership Executive Group (LEG)

Designate actions from Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan to relevant staff and ensure responsibilities under the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* are met, including annual reporting.

[Support the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee appointed by Council to provide advice and information regarding access and inclusion matters.-](#)

3.2.3 All staff

Implement relevant actions as per Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan, and ensure accessibility and inclusion are considered in all projects, programs and Council activities.

4 Supporting documents

4.1 BVSC procedures that relate to this policy

Procedure No.:	Procedure Name	External or Internal Procedure
	There are no procedures sitting under Policy 1.02	

4.2 BVSC policies that relate to this policy

Policy No.:	Policy Name
1.01	Community Wellbeing

1.0 62	Cultural Diversity
1.03	Arts and Culture
5.01	Asset Management
6.04	Conditions of Employment

4.2.1 Other related documents

Bega Valley Shire Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan [2021-25](#)

Bega Valley Shire Council Community Engagement Strategy [20192025 – 2029](#)

[Bega Valley Shire Council Disability and Inclusion Action Plan](#)

Bega Valley Shire Workforce Strategy

Note: Policy details may change from time to time. To ensure you are viewing the most recent version please view Council's adopted Policies and Procedures on the Council website: www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au [Bega Valley Shire Council](#)