

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT - ADOPTION OF THE
DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN**

REPORT BY: STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT

CONTACT: INTERIM DIRECTOR STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT

DIRECTOR'S ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Notes the accessibility and inclusion principles embedded in the Destination Management Plan (DMP) including:

The DMP's vision:

Newcastle is a premier Australian visitor and events destination, showcasing a rich art, cultural and food scene, a vibrant night-time economy, and accessible nature-based and coastal experiences.

Specific initiatives in DMP around accessibility, including:

- Identity, Awareness and Placemaking Theme (page 7) – *Creating a cohesive brand identity for Newcastle that can drive placemaking initiatives and promote positive awareness of Newcastle as an inclusive and accessible destination, establishing it as the hub of the Hunter Region.*
 - Connectivity and Capacity Theme (page 7) - *Connectivity and Capacity Ensure Newcastle's infrastructure and assets can effectively service and support the city's growing visitor economy, providing an accessible and connected network with the capacity to realise potential as a visitor hub and gateway to the Hunter Region;*
 - Priority Objective within Identity, Awareness and Placemaking (page 28) - *develop an Access and Inclusion City Guide and associated website information for Newcastle and surrounds.*
2. Notes that CN's Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021 commits to investigating and utilising digital platforms to enhance orientation and mobility, including apps for wayfinding.
 3. Refers to the Access Inclusion Advisory Committee for further discussion and analysis the options for digital wayfinding platforms like the Wheeleasy App as successfully used by the City of Sydney.
 4. Refers to the Access Inclusion Advisory Committee the matter of emergency egress plans for council buildings to ensure suitability for occupants and visitors with a disability to the Access Inclusion Advisory Committee.