



City of Greater Geraldton Disability Access & Inclusion Annual Report July 2015 – June 2016

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Introduction

The City of Greater Geraldton is the service centre of Western Australia's Mid West region and lies 420km north of Perth, with a population of over 40,000 and is perched on a spectacular coastline to the west and a vast inland area stretching eastward to include the town of Mullewa.

Like many regional locations the percentage of persons with a disability is slightly higher than that of capital cities and it is estimated at around 21% of the current population. Given the predicted growth rate and an increasing ageing population this number will rise steadily every year.

The City is committed to facilitating the inclusion of people with disability through developing and improving its access to services, facilities, programs and events. The whole community benefits from better designed communal spaces and adopting the principles of universal access design and our commitment is to administer best practice principles through the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan to continually develop accessibility to a high standard.

It is a requirement of the Disability Services Act (WA) that all local government authorities develop and implement a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan that outlines the ways in which the authority will ensure that people with disability have equal access to its facilities and services and that each is required to lodge its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan with the WA Disability Services Commission and to provide an annual report each year on the progress.

The City of Greater Geraldton endorsed a new Disability Access and Inclusion Plan for 2013-18 on August 27 2013 and the following report provides an overview of the work progressed for the period July 2015 to June 2016.

There have been considerable achievements for access within new infrastructure projects and the following summary lists the major achievements.



Summary Overview

Summary of major initiatives undertaken by the City of Greater Geraldton to enhance access and inclusion for the 2015/16 period.

- Our foreshore precinct has seen major works in relation to access and includes upgraded access toilets with integrated adult change table and hoist facilities including beach wheelchair storage.

The refurbishment of the Foreshore toilet block is the first Changing Places facility in WA to receive Type 2 'Changing Places' accreditation and is fitted with accessible change facilities featuring an adjustable adult change table and hoist as well as ambulant toilet and shower facilities. This project was supported by funding from the Disability Services Commission.



- From the new Changing Places facility an access path for wheelchairs has been implemented allowing beach wheelchairs onto the beach proper. The ramp is specifically designed and engineered to counteract erosion from the sea. The path and ramp features stainless steel handrails for users down to the high water mark on the beach. The City has also procured a special beach wheelchair. This project was supported by funding from the Disability Services Commission.



Summary Overview Continued

- Further access features have included additional access parking spaces and access pathways throughout the foreshore.
- Located also on the Foreshore is a newly implemented youth precinct which has been built with best practice universal design principles and includes play equipment specifically chosen for its access features. A wheel chair carousel and nest swings were donated by Variety WA.



- Renewal program of footpaths in Greater Geraldton included replacement footpaths in Cathedral Avenue, Armstrong Street, Fitzgerald Street, Mark Street, Rifle Range Road, Chapman Road, Lester Avenue and Glenview Street. New footpaths were added on Marinula Road, Hosken Street and Stillwater Crescent.
- A new formalised shared pathway has been created in Spalding Park providing a much needed connection to the existing coastal and river path networks. The 2.5m wide and 850m long asphalt path begins at the entrance to Spalding Park and follows the river.



- Amenities refurbishments with new accessible toilets have been implemented at the Mullewa Youth Centre, Glendinning Park and Back Beach. Support funding came from Country Builders WA for the Back Beach access toilets.

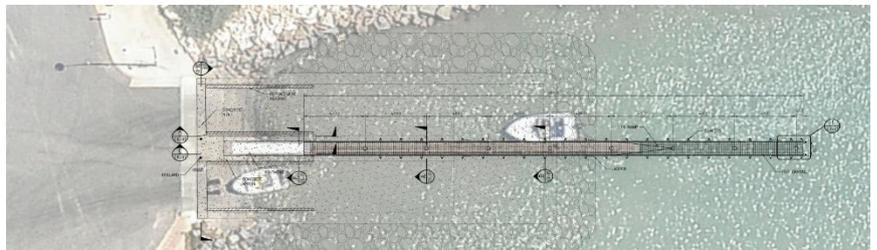


Summary Overview Continued

- A number of new ACROD parking spaces have been created or renewed including new access parking spaces in the Foreshore area and Glendinning Park.



- A program of Access audits on buildings identifying access improvement needs, capital works requirements and establishing costs has progressed.
- A new finger jetty is currently under construction at the Francis Street boat launch which is designed to assist people with mobility issues and allow easier access to boats by providing a floating platform deck to align with boat heights.



- The City continues to improve community consultation and sector liaison and undertake consultations to establish community needs. The City consults with our disability advisory group on our major projects affecting public access from the design phase through to the evaluation of the project.
- A range of art program initiatives for people with disability including City hosted or supported exhibitions and partnered projects with DADAA, Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts WA.
- The City supported a range of events including International Day for People with Disability in partnership with local service providers.





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