

Access Policy

PURPOSE:

Council recognises its social, moral and statutory obligations to the ongoing development of a city that is accessible to all.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all Council owned facilities and services.

POLICY:

Council will:

- Consult with the community regarding the Council's activities and how they impact on the diverse needs of people within the municipality.
- Engage with the wider community with an access for all survey to be conducted every two years.
- Ensure that people with a disability accessing the Council's services and facilities are treated in a manner that enhances dignity, independence and equality of service.
- Aim to ensure that all new and existing Council facilities, i.e. parks, buildings, paths and roads meets the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, the Disability Access to Premises-Buildings Standards 2010 (Premises Standards), the Building Act 2000, Building Regulations 2004 and the National Construction Code (incorporating the Building Code of Australia Volume 1 and Volume 2. Continue to maintain and update an Action Plan in accordance with Sections 60 of the Disability Discrimination Act (1992).
- Adhere to information standards so that printed documents are accessible in appropriate formats.
- The Launceston Access Advisory Committee will be used to support Council departments to deliver access friendly outcomes.
- The City of Launceston and the Launceston Access Advisory Committee promote to private and commercial operators the benefits of making their properties accessible in terms of the Disability Discrimination Act.
- The Access Advisory Committee be appointed to facilitate implementation of this policy under the following terms of reference:

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Launceston Access Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

The Launceston Access Advisory Committee is a Special Committee of Council as defined under section 24 of the *Local Government Act (TAS) 1993*.

PURPOSE:

- The primary purpose of the City of Launceston's Access Advisory Committee is to provide advice to the Council on matters relevant to access issues and to promote accessibility issues within the Municipality.
- Advice is to be given at the higher strategic level, rather than operational.

ROLE:

- To review on a regular basis (every five years) an Access Plan for the City
- Present any new Access Plan to Council for adoption
- To review up and coming capital projects from the aspect of accessibility
- To promote the benefits of being accessible to local businesses
- To provide advice to Council on specific matters relevant to Access
- Promote community participation in and awareness of Access activities

MEMBERSHIP:

The Launceston Access Advisory Committee will consist of the following positions:

- Two Alderman (one to be the Chair)
- A person representing School for Seniors
- A person representing Post-Polio Network of Tasmania
- A person representing Royal Guide Dogs Association
- A person representing integrated living (formerly Family Based Care)
- A person representing Child Health Association of Tasmania
- A person representing Tasmanian Deaf Society
- A person representing Independent Living Centre
- A person representing Tasmanian Amputee Society
- A person representing Tasmanians With Disabilities
- Relevant Officers of Council will attend meetings as necessary
- Two Community representatives with relevant Access skills, appointed by Council. Invitations for these positions are to be called for by public advertisement

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All positions to be for a two year period. Requests for membership at other times may be considered at the discretion of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Manager Community Development.

MEETINGS:

The Committee will meet twice per year and other times as required.

CODE OF CONDUCT:

All members must adhere to the Code of Conduct for Committees. Aldermen and Council Officers must also adhere to their own relevant Code of Conduct.

HOW THE COMMITTEE WILL OPERATE:

The Committee will only be involved in Access at the higher level. It will not discuss individual issues or cases at length. There is a clear process for customers to raise matters through the Service Request Process.

The Officer servicing the Committee will note high level of Access issues raised. These matters will be reported back to the relevant Council Department for a report at the next or subsequent meeting.

Matters of a minor nature will be dealt with through the normal Council Service Request Process and it is the responsibility of those raising the matter to fill in the Service Request.

PROTOCOL:

Unless otherwise specified, the Meeting Procedure adopted by City of Launceston will prevail over the workings of this Committee.

RESOURCES:

Council will provide Officer resources to organise meetings, take minutes and distribute follow up actions to other Officers.