

Access and Inclusion Plan - Community Consultation  
**Issues Paper 3 - Locations**

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## Introduction

Between November 2011 and March 2012 over 260 people across Tweed Shire participated in a community consultation on access and inclusion. The purpose of the consultation was to provide the community with the opportunity to make access and inclusion issues known to Council. This will assist in the development of a formal policy and action plan that responds to community experience.

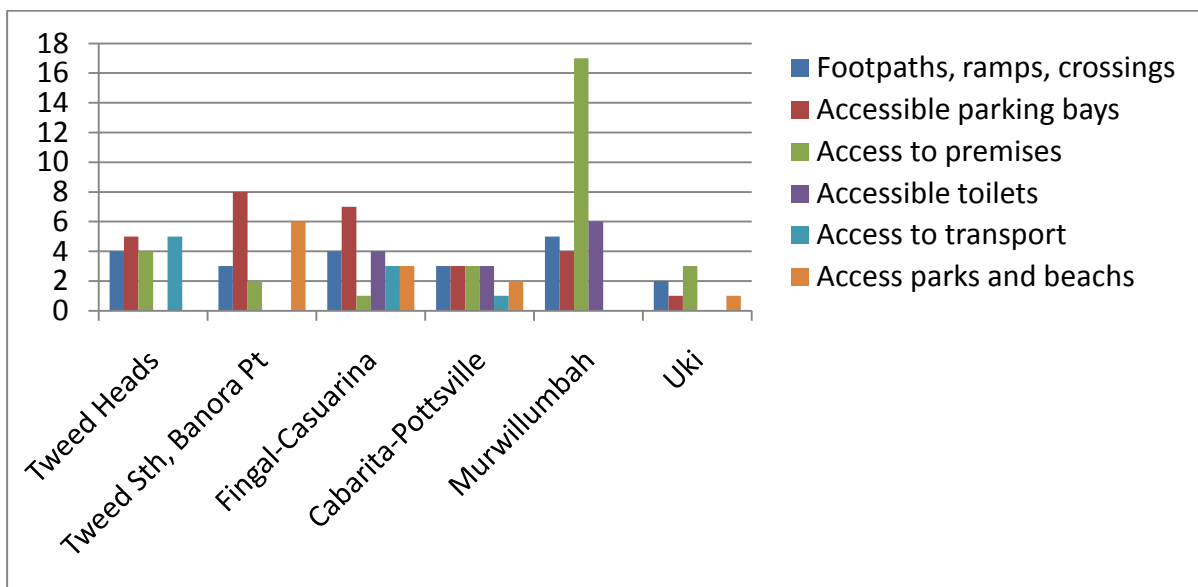
Issues Paper 3 reports on the results of the community consultation that relate to access in particular locations around Tweed Shire. This Issues Paper should be read in conjunction with Issues Paper 1 *Consultation Summary* which gives a background to the legislative and policy framework for access and inclusion.

## Locations

This Issues Paper reports on the results of the community consultation where access issues in specific locations were identified. The information in this Issues Paper and represented in Table 1 needs to be read in conjunction with Issues Paper 2 which includes the overall access issues raised by the community. Not all feedback identified specific locations.

Forty four percent (44%) of the total access issues in the consultation identified specific locations. While there may be other locations in Tweed Shire where people are experiencing problems with access, this feedback does provide a general idea on the types of access issues that are location-specific. As can be seen in Table 1 the identified locations have different access issues.

**Table 1 Access issues identified in specific locations**



Tweed Shire and other local government areas in the north coast of NSW all have older villages with heritage listed buildings and stepped entries into businesses. Cost effective solutions to this access issue need to be found.

## Murwillumbah

Many respondents mentioned Murwillumbah with the difficulty of entering premises because of stepped entries.

*In Murwillumbah, many businesses and banks have steps to gain entry, making it impossible for many to gain access. Some shops have racks of wares so close together it is difficult to get a wheelchair between them.*

Murwillumbah also scored high on access along footpaths where businesses have footpath trading. People with vision impairment need to navigate along the building line which needs to be kept clear of goods, signs and cafe furniture. A number of people said they no longer shopped in Murwillumbah because of access difficulties and chose to shop in other parts of the Tweed.

## **Uki**

Uki, like many older villages has many access barriers.

*Almost every shop in Uki has a step of some kind. The public hall has no wheelchair access either. Footpaths are a nightmare for those in a wheelchair because of cracked cement tiles. In some places there are no footpaths or ramps so manoeuvring around traffic in a wheelchair/scooter is extremely frightening because you are at eye level with a bull bar.*

## **Fingal to Casuarina**

The northern coastal strip was mentioned for access in parks and beaches, and access to transport and crossings. In Kingscliff, footpaths and accessible parking spaces were identified as issues that needed to be improved.

## **Tweed Heads, Tweed South, Banora**

Tweed Heads South had the highest number of mentions for accessible car parking spaces and accessible and safe road crossings, while Tweed Heads was noted for lack of accessible car parking spaces and problems with transport.

## **Conclusion**

Highlighting locations where access issues are affecting the daily lives of people with disabilities will help in developing the Access and Inclusion Action Plan. The Action Plan will include priority areas and issues and how to work towards solutions that improve physical and social inclusion in community life. The information gathered in the community consultation puts the voices of the community into the planning process and gives weight to decisions on priorities.

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