

Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee

13 May 2019



Minutes

HELD AT Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre

Present

Ron Finneran OAM	Alice Howe (BVSC)
Jenny Robb	Keith Tull (BVSC)
Felicity Gates	John Grady (BVSC)
Jennifer Russell	Jonathon Pyke (BVSC)
Francis Pearce	Ian Macfarlane (BVSC)
David Buckley	Jason Deller (BVSC)
	Anne Leydon (BVSC) on behalf of Anne Cleverley
	Laura Golding (BVSC)
	Scott Baker (BVSC)
	Sugita Wahl (BVSC)

1 Welcome and apologies

That the apologies submitted by Anne Cleverley, Chris Sparks, Michaela Pascolutti, Rosemary Oates, John Reynolds and Colin Dunn for their inability to attend the meeting be accepted.

Absent: Nathan Johnston, Graham Carmody and Cr Bain.

2 Confirmation of minutes

That the minutes including the amendment of the previous AIAC meeting held on 18 February 2019 be taken as read. Motion moved by Ron Finneran and seconded by Anne Leydon.

Unanimously adopted.

3 Review of Action Items & Outcomes Register

Item No. 20/2019 – New Bermagui Shelter and skate park picnic table

Alice Howe outlined the outcomes of an internal review into this matter. It was identified that there is an accessibility requirement in the project checklist, which the Community Project assessment had not adequately considered. Council is in the process of revising its Local Approval Policy and reinforcing the existing internal process in place to ensure accessibility is appropriately considered in future projects.

Scott Baker advised there are community members who are interested to extend on the current access to pathway, details to be passed onto John Grady.

New Action: John Grady to follow up on pathway issue and report back to AIAC at the August meeting.

Item No. 19/2019 – Timed Parking Zones

Alice Howe noted an article for ‘time zoned’ accessible parking has been printed on the front page in the recent edition of the Council News publication.

To view Council News electronically please use the link below.

https://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-NRF-03-87-58

Ron Finneran suggested also advertising into local newspapers subject to budget.

About disabled parking bays

The Mobility Parking Scheme (MPS) allows eligible people to park in designated disabled parking bays and also doubles the time limit when parked in timed parking areas for those in our community with an eligible mobile disability or their carer.

Eligible people are issued with an MPS permit which must be displayed conspicuously within the vehicle to qualify for the parking concession.

Ineligible drivers parking a vehicle in designated disabled parking bays will be fined \$561 and lose 1 demerit point.

Parking even for a few moments to drop

off passengers or to make a delivery is not acceptable unless you have a current MPS permit.

Council’s rangers take a zero tolerance view of this parking offence.

A current and valid interstate or overseas disability parking permit may be used in New South Wales.

If you think you may qualify for an MPS permit or for more information, please visit <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/using-roads/mobility-parking/index.html>



Item No. 18/2018 – Aboriginal people not being consulted about access issues

Ron Finneran previously moved to support a representative from the AIAC to attend the next Koori Interagency Network meeting to raise the profile of the AIAC to aboriginal people in the Bega Valley Shire.

Action: Francis Pearce to follow up with Ron Finneran and provide an update at the August meeting.

Item No 13/2018 – Bega accessible parking

Jason Deller advised the audit on accessible car parks for businesses within the Shire have commenced and are progressing well. Bega has been completed, halfway through Pambula and then onto Merimbula.

Findings from the audit are projected to be completed this financial year.

New Action: Present accessible parking audit finding at the August meeting.

Item No 12/2018 – Good access is good for business

Jenny Robb discussed looking into organising an audit relating to accessibility for improved access and inclusion in both the business and tourism sectors on the Sapphire Coast. Giving businesses an opportunity to electronically advertise what accessibility is available. Jenny Robb and Colin Dunn to revisit and report back at the August meeting.

New Action: Alice Howe to follow up on conference papers from the Inclusive Tourism Workshop held in Melbourne in early May 2019.

Item No. 11/2018 – RMS Eden

Cr. Bain had previously advised the owner of the building are the tenants and referred back to the previous discussion into the audit of the amount of available accessible car spaces.

Action: Alice Howe to follow up with Cr. Bain to obtain an update regarding contacting the owner of the building and follow up on selecting another car park to be used.

Item No 9/2018 – Compleat Angler & Camping World – status of lift

Jonathon Pyke advised that the lift is operational and fully compliant. No further action required.

Felicity Gates previously raised the access issue with the shopfront display and footpath access. Laura Golding reported shop front display and pathway access were deemed fully compliant and an approval for use of public land is current held, expiring June 2020. This site visit had been conducted by a BVSC Ranger officer in April 2019.

Jonathon Pyke advised that requirement markers on footpaths for display items will be considered as part of the current review of Council's Local Approval Policy.

Item No 7/2018 – Misuse of disabled parking stickers

Alice Howe advised Ranger recruitment has been completed with new staff commencing in the coming weeks, this includes a parking/compliance officer who will be monitoring the misuse of accessible parking spaces. This will be part of a three month trial that will take place over June – August 2019.

Item No 12/2017 – Bunga Street, Bermagui

Jason Deller and Ian Macfarlane previously advised the project is being scoped and will likely be funded in budget for next financial year. Preparation is underway and work in progress. Plans will be distributed to the AIAC when available.

Item No 18/2016 – Access to Club Sapphire

Jason Deller advised this project is for consideration in next financial year's budget.

Item No 13/2016 – NSW Legislative Improvements in Access

Ron Finneran has been in contact with Chris Sparks – still in progress.

Item No 09/2016 – Pharmacies in the Bega Valley are accessible

Ron Finneran noted this has been discussed but to hold this for the moment. Jennifer Russell noted that the current Royal Commission was looking into this.

New Action: Laura Golding to circulate Royal Commission Terms of Reference to the Committee (see below):

<https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/royal-commission-into-violence-abuse-neglect-and-exploitation-of-people-with-disability>

4 New and other Business

4.1 AIAC Committee Update requests

Merimbula Rotary Plan – Mitches Jetty (Ron Finneran)

David Buckley presented a 40 minute slideshow outlining the need and accessibility for a facility at Mitches Jetty for people with a disability to safely access the water. Mr Buckley advised that he had provided proposal documents to Council's Major Projects Manager.

Alice Howe advised Rotary Club to liaise directly with her to assist facilitate Council input on accessible designs within the remit of the Committee, so they can be assigned to the most appropriate Council officer.

Alice Howe moved a motion to support the project in principle, requesting further consideration of user needs and ongoing maintenance requirements of the proposal. The motion was seconded by Ron Finneran, and unanimously adopted.

4.2 Sub Committees reports and updates

Community

Jenny Robb on behalf of John Reynolds – as discussed throughout review of action log.

Business

Jenny Robb on behalf of Colin Dunn – as discussed throughout review of action log.

Tourism

Jenny Robb – as discussed throughout review of action log.

4.3 Recreation Projects Update - for discussion items

Beauty Point Boat Ramp

John Grady noted the Beauty Point Boat Ramp is completed. Additional works included a picnic table and pathway to soon be added. Scope of project was to improve the facilities and access already established.

Felicity Gates highlighted the bollards at the toilet block could be more visible with some paint.

*All concept designs are located on the BVSC website under the 'Major Projects' page or alternatively on the link as below

https://begavalley.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-HWQ-41-35-06

Rural Village Playground Upgrade

John Grady advised Memorial Park Wyndham, Apex Park Cobargo, Northern and Southern side of Mogareeka Bridge and Bemboka Apex Park are in progress. Council has endorsed the concept plans and the approval to commence construction. Tathra is progressing well, expected completion mid-June 2019.

Bruce Steer Pool Amenities Upgrade: Tender for new amenities going out in the coming weeks.

Short Point: Construction has commenced on the headland with the seating and sun lounges to be made more accessible on the Promenade level.

Pambula Beach: Design is being completed in-house. Toilets to be upgraded.

Bermagui Inclusive Playground

Funding for this project has now been received. John Grady noted they are consulting the engagement plan/design stage with the community on-site.

4.4 AIAC Correspondence

In March 2019, a letter was forwarded to Jason Apps to invite him to attend a future AIAC meeting, to seek his views on how we might make our waterways more accessible. Laura Golding noted no response has been received. Ron Finneran suggested forwarding another invitation to Jason Apps.

Action: Laura Golding to send follow up email.

4.5 Other Business

Strategy & Assets Services update (Jason Deller)

Jason Deller referred to previous update of item 13/2018 as discussed in the Action Items and Outcome Register. The audit summary to be presented at the August meeting.

Access Improvement Grants update (Alice Howe)

Alice Howe provided an update on the outstanding acquittals have been received. Extensions have been granted for Masonic Investments, Pambula Wetlands and Heritage Project and St Georges Uniting Church.

Ron Finneran suggested that all future grants are to publish 'accessibility friendly' and completed works photographs on their websites/or on Council News throughout submission of acquittal and final reporting.

Alice Howe advised that the 2019 Access Grant round will be commencing in June with a total budget of \$25k (including a small carry forward amount from last year). A small sub group will be formed to determine applications, consisting of Alice Howe, Ron Finneran and Felicity Gates. A summary and assessment criteria of the applications will be provided by the sub group at the next AIAC meeting.

Bike Track Project update (John Grady on behalf of Daniel Djikic)

Progressing well, tenders are now underway for installation of the bridges.

Walking track tender for construction closed in early May. Report going to Council for recommendation.

A Trail of Light and Sound Presentation (Scott Baker)

Scott Baker presented a 30 minute slideshow presentation featuring a number of site-specific audio-visual artworks installed from the Indoor Sculpture exhibition in the Bermagui Community Hall, leading to the start of Dickinson Point headland where the larger Outdoor Sculpture works are exhibited. This was a partnership between the post-disability arts organisation Real Art Works from Lismore and the Bega Valley Shire Library. Professional artists identifying as experiencing disability exhibiting their own work and mentor local artists to create original concepts to be incorporated into the trail of sound and light.

Meeting closed 1:45pm.