

Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee

9 November 2020



Minutes

HELD Via Zoom

Present

Ron Finneran	Alice Howe (BVSC)
Rosemary Oates	John Grady (BVSC)
Colin Dunn	Anne Cleverley (BVSC)
Jenny Robb	Shelli Reid (BVSC)
Chris Sparks	Carol Bunt (BVSC)
Nathan Johnston	Nathanael Wearne (BVSC) (Part)
Sue Thomas	Chris Best (BVSC) (Part)

1 Welcome and apologies

That the apologies submitted by Wendy MacDonald and Graham Carmody for their inability to attend the meeting be accepted.

Absent: Cr Bain and Jennifer Russell.

2 Confirmation of minutes

That the minutes of the previous AIAC meeting held on 10 August 2020 be taken as read. Motion moved by Jenny Robb and seconded by Colin Dunn. Unanimously adopted.

3 Presentations to the Committee

3.1 BVSC Water and Sewer Administration Building Design - Nathanael Wearne and Chris Best

Nathanael Wearne and Chris Best presented the concept design plans for the BVSC Water and Sewer Administration Building Design. Mr Wearne requested the Committee to look at the facility and provide any feedback. This building will harness the opportunity to bring the whole Water and Sewer Team together.

The question was asked whether there are many staff with accessibility issues and why there are differing levels that prevent access for all. Despite the fact that there are no staff with disability access issues currently, the building is being built to suit future access.

Dr Howe asked whether the Committee would like to have further consultation on the design phase of this project.

Questions were asked about bathroom and hallway facilities as well as mobility parking space. Mr Wearne reiterated that the facilities would be suitable for disabled access.

Ms Gates asked whether the plans were accommodating for people with vision loss. Mr Best said he would consider all aspects that Ms Gates had to offer in this space.

New Action: Secretariat to circulate the plans.

New Action: Mr Best and Ms Gates to discuss potential vision impairment design solutions.

3.2 Tathra All-Inclusive Playspace (video)

https://youtu.be/ZNwgv_ph-y8?list=PLjdGX64tXQMFCtRMmvrddTynwp3ypqVGb

3.3 Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) – Carol Bunt

Ms Bunt presented the principles of the DIAP.

- The Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) provides an opportunity for Council to think about how it can help people with disability live more fully in our region.
- The DIAP will include specific actions that can be measured and that Council will deliver, lead, influence or advocate for. It will be linked to Council's planning documents, be integrated into its work and reported on annually.

Consultation to date:

- Workshop with the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee for special insights into inclusion and into the operations of Council.
- Discussion with the Bega Eden Merrimans Committee.
- Interview with Uniting, Local Area Coordinator for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- Extensive consultation across Council through nominated officers, Community Connections, People and Culture, Media and Communications and Senior Leadership Group.
- A range of actions for the DIAP were identified then prioritised based on what is achievable within operational plans and to deliver outcomes.
- Councillor workshop on 21 October 2020.
- The proposed actions, once endorsed by Council, will be reported on annually.

Themes of the DIAP:

1. Developing positive community attitudes and behaviours

- *Key question: How can we learn about and explain the benefits of diversity and inclusion for our community?*
- Annual inclusion awareness training for staff
- Development Hub providing advice about Liveable Housing design
- Including disability inclusion in event planning guides
- Review Council's style guide to check inclusive language
- Hold a Big Day Out focused on inclusion and diversity
- A communication strategy focused on what inclusion means and what council is doing in the DIAP

2. Creating liveable communities

- *Key question: What are some everyday changes that could help people with disability live full lives and benefit everybody?*
- Continue advocacy for accessible public housing
- Review and update land use plans to allow for accessibility where possible including shared pathways
- Develop and implement a comprehensive Bega Valley Transport Strategy in collaboration with Transport NSW
- Review the issues for people with disability during disaster events
- A Council action plan to increase accessible parking and town centres

- Look to fund a specialised change facility
- Look to resource a Tourism Access Sapphire Coast Strategy

3. Supporting access to meaningful employment

- *Key question: How might Council show leadership in the employment of people with disability?*
- Annual inclusion and diversity training for staff
- Review of recruitment processes to reduce barriers and increase consideration for PWD
- A progressive review of physical layouts in Council
- Consider partnership with disability recruitment specialists
- Working with local schools to model inclusive work practices

4. Improving access to better mainstream services through better systems & processes

- *Key question: What are some everyday changes that could help people with disability access services more easily?*
- Customer service to offer specific times for PWD
- Events guide to include a standard pre-attendance document
- Key Council documents available in accessible formats
- Library and Gallery to offer more events for people with sensory impairments
- Inclusion integrated into project planning
- Council to explore accessible toilets for events

Timeframes:

- 21 October 2020 Workshop with Councillors
- 9 November 2020 update to AIAC
- 25 November 2020 Council considers draft for public exhibition
- Public exhibition from 26 November to 22 January 2021
- 23 February 2021 Council considers updated DIAP for proposed launch in 2021

AIAC Discussed:

Mr Johnston mentioned that there is no change table at Pambula Pool which inhibits him from using the facility. Mr Finneran said that the change table is not appropriate. Mr Grady commented that the footprint of an accessible/high needs facility wasn't considered when the Pambula Pool was constructed and it is difficult to adjust.

Ms Dunn commented that someone from the Committee should be involved in the Councillor workshop. Dr Howe agreed with this.

New Action: Mr Johnston and Mr Grady to discuss the facilities at the pool to see what can be done about the change table situation.

New Action: Ms Gates to pass on information for contacts for accessible toilets to Ms Bunt for the events planning part of the DIAP.

New Action: Secretariat to circulate the Disability Inclusion Action Plan for feedback when on public exhibition.

3.4 Access in Sri Lanka – Felicity Gates

Ms Gates presented to some accessibility photos from her family holiday. Felicity showed gratitude to the work that Committees and Australia does in relation to access issues. Thank you for sharing Felicity.

4 Review of Action Items & Outcomes Register

(Please refer to the Action Items and Outcome Register for all actions)

Item 18-2018 – Aboriginal People not being consulted about access issues

9/11/2020

Secretariat sent letter to Two-fold Aboriginal Corporation to be involved in the Committee. Secretariat following up the response.

Item 11-2018 – RMS Eden has moved their driver testing area near accessible ramp

9/11/2020

Secretariat to follow up BVSC Planning team for a response.

Item 18-2016 – Camber of footpath out the front of Club Sapphire, Merimbula is very steep and dangerous.

9/11/2020

Peter Newton following up around the traffic analysis.

Item 9-2020 – Zingel Place Redesign

9/11/2020

Felicity has been to some meetings and the working group have taken on some recommendations. Iain Dawson has been forthcoming with the actions. Ongoing consultation underway.

Item 10-2020– Sapphire Coast Tourism Proposal

9/11/2020

Secretariat sent letter of appreciation to Sapphire Coast Destination NSW.

Item 22-2019– Lack of pathway access

9/11/2020

Completed. This action is now incorporated with Item 18-2016.

Item 11-2020– Eden Whale Museum – AIG Disability Parking

9/11/2020

Completed. Council inspected the facility. Letter sent to Eden Killer Whale Museum to re-stencil the car park.

New Action: Dr Howe to follow up on Council's action internally.

Item 12-2020– Major Projects Update

9/11/2020

Secretariat conveyed letter of thanks to the Committee.

5 New and other Business

5.1 Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Updates and Requests

There were no update requests for this meeting.

5.2 Sub Committees reports and updates

Business (Colin Dunn)

Nothing to report in this space.

Community (John Reynolds)

Nothing new to report in this space.

Tourism (Jenny Robb)

No funding secured for the Sapphire Coast Tourism Proposal project. Ms Robb has been encouraging people to note accessibility issues regarding their businesses. Ms Oates commented that now is a good time to advocate for this.

New Action: Dr Howe to follow up with Council's Recovery Team about resources for Recovery Business Support. May be able to flag in discussions with the businesses about disability inclusion. Add content in the business newsletter.

5.3 Major works/developments Projects Updates

Operational Plan 19/21 Projects of Interest

John Grady provided an update on progress with works commenced in the Bega Valley. Updates as below:

<p>Blackfellows Lake Boat Ramp upgrade ^</p> <p>\$390,000</p> <p>NSW Boating Now</p> <p>Update 09/11/2020: Construction underway. Due for completion early December.</p>
<p>Bermagui River Boat Ramp upgrade</p> <p>\$390,000</p> <p>NSW Boating Now</p> <p>Update 09/11/2020: Construction underway. Due for completion early December.</p>
<p>'A Destination for All' – Coastal Accessibility Project (Bruce Steer Pool Bermagui, Short Point Merimbula and Pambula Beach Reserve) *</p> <p>\$2,927,000</p> <p>NSW Regional Growth Fund - Environment and Tourist Fund</p> <p>Update 09/11/2020: Bruce Steer – Amenities and paths complete. Ramp design being finalised meeting with AIAC reps. 1:14 path design. RFQ assessment. Short Point – Final Concept endorsed by Council 26/08/2020. Detailed design for construction tender underway. Possible Christmas. Pambula Beach – Site works underway. Scheduled completion early December.</p>
<p>Eden All Abilities Playground*</p> <p>\$200,000 Council Contribution: 50%</p> <p>NSW Department of Planning Everyone Can Play in NSW</p> <p>Update 09/11/2020 Site information / consultation session held. Project advisory group formed and involved in project development. Concept due to be reported to Council 16 December.</p>

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<p>Bermagui All Abilities Playground*</p> <p>\$376,507 Council Contribution: \$41,834</p> <p>Stronger Country Communities – Round 2</p> <p>Update 10/08/2020: Contract awarded. Site works due first quarter 2021. (Local Contractor) Amenities renewal project also underway.</p>
<p>Great South Coast Walk - Stage 1 (Wallaga Lake) ^</p> <p>\$225,500</p> <p>NSW Stronger Country Communities - Round 1</p> <p>Update 09/11/2020: Construction well advanced. Expected completion late November.</p>
<p>Accessible Nature Trails - Tura Coastal Reserves*</p> <p>\$200,000 +</p> <p>Council Contribution</p> <p>\$102,084</p> <p>NSW Stronger Country Communities - Round 2</p> <p>Update 09/11/2020: Works completed underway Dolphin Cove & The Point.</p> <p>Tura Head. RFQ completed. Result within budget. Awaiting AHIP permit for construction. Construction expected first Quarter 2020.</p>
<p>BVSC Fish Cleaning Table upgrades</p> <p>\$186,399 +</p> <p>Council Contribution</p> <p>\$8,855</p> <p>NSW Stronger Country Communities - Round 2</p> <p>Update 09/11/2020: As above. Projects linked to boat ramp upgrades Bermagui River & Blackfellows Lake.</p>
<p>Bega Valley Regional Sports Hub (Bega & Pambula)*</p> <p>\$13,500,000</p> <p>Council Contribution: \$2,560,000</p> <p>Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund</p> <p>Update 09/11/2020: Merimbula Courts construction commenced. Expect completion March 2021.</p> <p>Pambula – Building concept design QS costed. Local builder costing pre-design review.</p> <p>Bega – Council report 26 August. Sports Building RFT out to market.</p>
<p>Barclay Street Eden- Sportsground Revitalisation</p> <p>Grant \$653,948 +</p> <p>Council contribution \$146,000</p> <p>Infrastructure NSW- Stronger Country Communities – Round 2</p> <p>Update 09/11/2020: Floodlighting completed May 2020. Pavilion concept included in AIAC update March 2020. Building design RFQ documentation underway. Aim to start construction first quarter 2021.</p>
<p>Barclay Street Football (Soccer) Pavilion Improvements</p> <p>\$154,646 (Club submitted application)</p> <p>Club Grants R3</p> <p>Update 09/11/2020: Design / consultation to progress.</p>
<p>Eden Fitness Trail</p> <p>\$120,000 (Community submitted application)</p> <p>Service NSW</p> <p>Update 09/11/2020: Completed and opened</p>

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<p>Bermagui Apex Park- Inclusive Play Space</p> <p>Grant \$376,000</p> <p>Council contribution \$42,000</p> <p>Infrastructure NSW</p> <p>Update 09/11/2020: Contract awarded. Site works due 1st qtr 2021. (Local Contractor) Amenities renewal project also underway.</p> <p>ECP application submitted: Play & Skate Precinct connectivity & ‘can I stay’</p>
<p>Wolumla Recreation Ground- Pavilion upgrade</p> <p>\$110,000</p> <p>Infrastructure NSW- Stronger Country Communities – Round 2</p> <p>Update 09/11/2020: Completed</p>
<p>Quaama Memorial Park Play Ground Upgrade</p> <p>Grant \$90,000</p> <p>Council contribution \$20,000</p> <p>Stronger Country Communities Round 3</p> <p>Update 09/11/2020: Stakeholder group / design work / concept development underway</p>
<p>Eden Skate Park Upgrade</p> <p>\$300,000 NSW Govt Grant</p> <p>\$300,000 Fed Govt Grant</p> <p>Council co-contribution</p> <p>\$150,000</p> <p>Stronger Country Communities Round 3 + Australian Government’s Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Projects Stream – Round 4 – Drought Support</p> <p>Update 09/11/2020: Initial info / consultation session held (with playspace info session)</p> <p>Next step is RFQ to issue for specialist design.</p>
<p>Bermagui Multi Outdoor Courts</p> <p>Grant \$160,000</p> <p>Council contribution \$45,000</p> <p>Stronger Country Communities Round 3</p> <p>Update 09/11/2020: Initial site meetings / project scoping held.</p>
<p>Pambula Squash Courts</p> <p>\$800,000</p> <p>Australian Government’s Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Projects Stream – Round 4 – Drought Support</p> <p>Update 09/11/2020: Construction Underway. Import fit-out and materials (from Europe) impacted delayed by COVID. Aiming for fit out first quarter 2021, but to be confirmed.</p>

Mr Finneran commented that the layout for the Barclay Street Pavilion should be reviewed as it is not appropriate with shared facilities for disabled toilets and umpires’ rooms to share the space.

Mr Finneran moved a motion that Leisure and Recreation in conjunction with Ms Robb and Mr Finneran review the layout of the pavilion.

Moved: Mr Finneran

Seconded: Ms Thomas

New Action: Ms Robb, Mr Finneran and Mr Grady to review the layout of the Barclay Street Pavilion layout to ensure suitability for multi-purpose use.

5.4 Other Business

5.4.1 Tura Access

Mr Finneran spoke to this item explaining that a community member who is totally incapacitated due to medical illness is currently unable to use the recently upgraded granite pathway to the North Tura Beach lookout. Due to this affecting the community members wellbeing, the family have offered to pay for the upgrades to pathway to make it suitable for this person to use their wheelchair to access the lookout.

Mr Finneran requested that work commences immediately to complete the upgrade to enable the community member to visit the beach. Mr Dunn added that the pathway has been impacted by recent rain and has deteriorated.

Dr Howe mentioned that this project is being considered through the community project proposal process. This community proposal will be going to the 25/11/20 Council meeting for consideration.

5.4.2 Process for new projects to be considered by AIAC

This item has been deferred to the February 2021 meeting.

Moved: Dr Howe

Seconded: Ms Oates

5.4.3 Access Improvement Grants Update

Dr Howe updated the Committee regarding the progress of the 2020 round of Access Improvement Grants.

Excerpt from Council minutes:

82/2020 Council RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Bain and Dodds

1. That Council adopt the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee's recommendations (Attachment 1) to award the following Grant allocations, for a total value of \$15,600:
 - a) Panboola Pambula Wetlands and Heritage Project Inc for the 'Improving disability parking at Panboola' project (\$600);
 - b) Bermagui Surf Life Saving Club for the 'Same Wave - An All Abilities Aquatic Program' (\$5,000);
 - c) Wolumla Football Club for the 'Wheelchair friendly picnic tables' project (\$5,000); and
 - d) The Trustee for the Australasia Property Unit Trust for the 'Accessing the Australasia' project (\$5,000).
2. That unspent funds of \$4,920 from the 2020 Access Improvement grant round be allocated towards a grant application to support accessible tourism.
3. That Council thank the Access and Inclusion Committee, and its Grants Sub-committee, for coordinating the 2020 Access Improvement Grant Program.
4. That Council officers write to all applicants advising them of the outcome of their applications.

5.4.4 Social Media for persons with a disability

Mr Johnston is currently building a social media platform for persons with a disability to interact with each other.

New Action: Mr Johnston to do a presentation at the February 2021 meeting.

6. Correspondence

AIAC Correspondence In

Correspondence from	Subject	Action taken
Anonymous	Access to Candelo Post Office	Investigation undertaken by Council staff and letter from Access Committee sent to property owners inviting application to Access Improvement Grants in 2021 round to improve access for those with accessibility difficulties.
Jenny Robb	Inclusive Tourism – opportunity for study	Link attached for Committee's information: https://lgnsw.org.au/Public/Policy/Campaigns-and-Initiatives/Inclusive-Tourism/Public/Advocacy/Inclusive-Tourism.aspx
Chris Sparks	National Disability Strategy Review	Secretariat forwarded link to Committee for information.
Wendy McDonald	Accessibility enquiry	Response provided to matters raised
Ron Finneran	Tura Beach Access	Council considering community project proposal on 25/11/2020 meeting.

AIAC Correspondence Out

Correspondence to	Subject
Candelo Post Office	Access to Candelo Post Office
Anthony McMahon – Director Assets and Operations Bega Valley Shire Council	Letter of appreciation – Assets and Operations Team (result of Action Item 12-2020)
Anthony Osborne – Sapphire Coast Destination Marketing	Letter of appreciation – Accessible Sapphire Coast (result of Action Item 10-2020)
Craig Mills - Two-Fold Aboriginal Corporation	Invitation to join the Committee – Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee
James Murray – Lions Club of Bemboka	Access Improvement Grant – Accessible Logo Display on website (result of Action Item 25-2019)
Serge Nachtergaele – Potoroo Palace – Native Animal Education Sanctuary	Access Improvement Grant – Accessible Logo Display on website (result of Action Item 25-2019)
Wendy McDonald	Response to questions raised in correspondence to AIAC

Meeting closed

Next ordinary meeting to be held at 11am on Monday 8 February 2021 at Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre.