Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee

2 March 2020

Minutes

HELD AT **Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre**

Present

Ron Finneran	Alice Howe (BVSC)
Chris Sparks	Ian Macfarlane (BVSC)
Rosemary Oates	Peter Newton (BVSC)
Colin Dunn	John Grady (BVSC)
Graham Carmody	Anne Cleverley (BVSC)
Jenny Robb	Laura Golding (BVSC)
Jennifer Russell	
Felicity Gates	

1 Welcome and apologies

That the apologies submitted by Cr Bain and John Reynolds for their inability to attend the meeting be accepted.

Absent: Nathan Johnston

2 Confirmation of minutes

That the minutes of the previous AIAC meeting held on 12 November 2019 be taken as read. Motion moved by Chris Sparks and seconded by Colin Dunn. Unanimously adopted.

3 Presentations to the Committee

- Accessible Car Spaces – Bunga Street Bermagui (Ian MacFarlane)

Ian Macfarlane presented to the committee on the accessible car spaces, including the Bunga Street vicinity in Bermagui. An audit was conducted where Council identified the location and configurations of its managed and controlled on and off-street disabled car spaces.

The investigation identified the following:

- x83 Total Disabled Car Spaces
- x32 Total on Street Disabled Car Spaces
- x49 Total Off-Street Disabled Car Spaces

It was noted that a significant amount of these do not comply with the current legislation requirements, out of x83 car spaces x22 were compliant and x61 non-compliant. Council has prioritized the non-compliant car spaces and since gathering this information staff have been actively upgrading spaces and are endeavoring to increase the amount of accessible parking spaces within our off-street carparks.

The AIAC were impressed with the outcome and congratulated Ian and the team on the success. This item refers to Action log reference 12/2017, item closed.

New Action: Alice Howe to follow up with Parking Ranger to regarding word notice leaflet and place on side of windscreen to make it more accessible to reach from a wheelchair.

4 Review of Action Items & Outcomes Register

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

27/2019 - Two 12-month casual vacancies
02/03/2020 meeting update
Action: Colin Dunn to follow up with Wendy McDonald to seek her interest.
Action: Invite to be forwarded to Sue for the May meeting.
Ron Finneran made contact with Sue Thomas to seek her interest, Sue is currently overseas and will advise a decision on her return. AIAC Secretariat to invite Sue to the next AIAC meeting.

25/2019 - Access Improvement Grants
Action: AIAC Secretariat to ensure previous AIG applicants have displayed the accessible symbol on their websites, in a prominent position the so that that the community and customers are aware of their access friendly business. To be checked upon time of grant acquittal.
02/03/2020 meeting update
Deferred. Update to be provided at May meeting.

24/2019 - Public Toilets Strategy
Action: John Reynolds to send information on previous assessment of public toilets to AIAC Secretariat to inform Council's planned Public Toilet Strategy and Action Plan.
02/03/2020 meeting update
Deferred. Update to be provided at May meeting.

22/2019 - Lack of pathway access
Action: Nathan to provide information about site near his workplace with access issues and Council to investigate options to address access constraints.
02/03/2020 meeting update
Deferred. AIAC Secretariat to follow up with Nathan Johnston.

21/2019 - Operational Plan 2019/20 – Project List
02/03/2020 meeting update
Action: Felicity Gates to follow up on an area for the Merimbula airport for guide dogs in relation to changes with Canberra and Sydney airports.
Felicity Gates following up on above action and to report at May meeting. Ron Finneran happy with the works at airport terminal, working extremely well – well done to all involved.

18/2018 - Aboriginal people not being consulted about access issues
Ron Finneran 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. The majority of the AIAC agreed.
Ron Finneran to contact Francis Pearce to follow up and provide an update at the next AIAC meeting on 13/05/2019.
02/03/2020 meeting update
Action: Ron Finneran to follow up and provide an update at the May meeting.

11/2018 - RMS Eden has moved their driver testing area near an accessible ramp
Action: Colin Dunn to obtain an update regarding contacting the owner of the building and follow up on selecting another car park to be used and report back at the November meeting.
02/03/2020 meeting update

Colin Dunn following up on above action, noted not on Council land, Colin to provide an update at May meeting.

18/2016 - Camber of footpath out the front of Club Sapphire, Merimbula - steep and dangerous
Action: Ian Macfarlane to circulate plans to AIAC before February meeting.
02/03/2020 meeting update
Peter Newton advised plans due by May meeting. Club Sapphire are looking at redeveloping and bringing back down to road level.

5 New and other Business

5.1 Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee Update requests

- Debrief on our emergency response service (Alice Howe)
Alice Howe sought the AIAC's feedback on the Emergency Response over the Bega Valley Bushfire. Discussions were held around the table on communications, support and the accessibility. The following points were received;

What could we do better:

- More emergency preparedness
- Lack of targeted communities for people with accessibility or reduced mobility
- Register of accessible rooms
- Clarify role of emergency services agencies and communicate
- Role of neighbourhood safer places
- Register of respite organisation
- Engage with wider range of disability services providers on what could do better

What didn't work:

- Bega Showground not accessible
- Didn't know how to assist and confusion around where to turn to
- Communication breakdown, no power, internet etc
- No suitable evacuation centres
- Some members of community wanted to take action but didn't have access to information
- Confusion around information on radio

What worked?

- Transport to evacuation centre
- Interaction with VRA
- Opportunity to learn from experience
- RSL evacuation facilities at Tura Beach and Eden to Merimbula
- Mayor and Ian Campbell were fantastic

The AIAC unanimously resolved on a vote of thanks to Mayor regarding excellent work during the bushfire event.

New Action: AIAC Secretariat to convey vote of thanks to the Mayor.

- Infringements statistics on non-authorised vehicles in disability spaces (Alice Howe)
The following statistics are for the week leading up to Christmas (17th-24th December 2019) for the infringements given to non-authorised vehicles (no permit visible) parked within a designated disability space either within on street or carpark parking areas.

Location	Number of Infringements
Sapphire Market Place	9
Tura Beach	1
Merimbula	1
Bega	1

- **Invitations to join the AIAC (Alice Howe)**
Discussed in the Action Items & Outcomes Register, item no 27/2019.

5.2 Sub Committees reports and updates

Business (Colin Dunn)

Business report combined with Tourism update (Colin Dunn and Jenny Robb)

Ron Finneran suggested employing a person to engage and convey marketing for improved tourism in the Bega Valley.

New Action: Ron Finneran, Jenny Robb and Colin Dunn to put forward proposal to Council.
Alice Howe noted there has been $250K funding received to support community events and local businesses.
New Action: Alice Howe to discuss with Economic Development to incorporate a tourism specific element around helping tourism businesses to pitch to people with disability, via the recovery program.

Community (John Reynolds)
John Reynolds provided comments via email correspondence to the Committee, noting the recent Community reporting regarding the recent bushfire crisis. The broadcast coverage updates provided by Ian Campbell, the Mayor and various emergency groups was second to none, exposing awareness and advice quickly to the community. John Reynolds wished to thank all emergency services for the security and assistance and the passing on of condolences to families and friends touched by the loss of life.

John Reynolds noted the new development at Mitre 10 Pambula shows one disabled space in the trade warehouse area and no disabled space for the retails store area.

New Action: Alice Howe to follow up and find out if there will be space allocated within the Development Application (DA).

Tourism (Jenny Robb)
Refer to Business.

5.3 Major works/developments Projects Updates

New Action: Ron Finneran to clarify the improved water access project/Mitches Jetty at Fish Pen, as developed by Merimbula Rotary.

For noting: Ian Macfarlane to ensure pedestrian access around Fishpen car park to be considered in future traffic management projects.

Operational Plan 19/20 Projects of Interests
Representatives were amended to the Projects of Interest; *(full list attached to email)*

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

Tathra Headland Wharf Access*
$1,219,000
NSW Regional Growth Fund - Environment and Tourist Fund
Completed
Now open
'A Destination for All' – Coastal Accessibility Project (Bruce Steer Pool Bermagui, Short Point Merimbula and Pambula Beach Reserve) *
$2,927,000
NSW Regional Growth Fund - Environment and Tourist Fund
Commenced
Bruce Steer Pool Bermagui: Ramp alignment and materials – limitations of fixed path into water discussed. Short Point Merimbula: Environmental Partnership draft/concepts reviewed. Amendments to be exhibited to stakeholder group. Pambula Beach Reserve: Multiple stakeholder meetings held. Design for future parking (north lease area Lease expires 2023) Better outcome than front of building, & funding constraints. Original font of building area to become overflow.
Eden All Abilities Playground*
$200,000 Council Contribution: 50%
NSW Department of Planning Everyone Can Play in NSW
Submitted
Working on finalising funding from federal government (Community Development Grant project) $400k. Site to be confirmed. Barclay Street as an option. RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Tapscott and Fitzpatrick, That Council endorse, in principle, the concept design for the new Barclay Street, sportsground pavilion and request the designer to include a cost-effective element within the existing project budget that reflects the design planned for the Eden Welcome Centre.
Bermagui All Abilities Playground*
$376,507 Council Contribution: $41,834
Stronger Country Communities – Round 2
Commenced
Endorsed by Council November 2020. Detail design for tender documents underway. AIM for tender April 2020.
Great South Coast Walk - Stage 1 (Wallaga Lake) ^
$225,500
NSW Stronger Country Communities - Round 1
Commenced
Bridges RFQ awarded. Design & construct. Detail design underway. Site/objectives and constraints. Accessible grades to end Dimond grid. Then steepness increases. Aim for no steps Approvals – Design reviews by Fisheries. Steeper site so aiming to limit steps. Constrained by REF identify limitation and cultural heritage.
Accessible Nature Trails - Tura Coastal Reserves*
$200,000 +
Council Contribution
$102,084
NSW Stronger Country Communities - Round 2
Commenced
Tura Head Good accessible opportunities. Relatively flat grades along elevated ridge line. Very good coastal views.
Bega Park accessible amenities and BBQ shelter*
$126,296
NSW Stronger Country Communities - Round 2
Commenced
Contractor engaged. Site works starting very soon. Looking at 1st quarter 2020 build. 1:20 path from new BBQ area.

Toilet construction due to Start 24/02
Bega Valley Regional Sports Hub (Bega & Pambula) * $13,500,000   Council Contribution: $2,560,000   Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund   **Submitted**   Working with Office of Sport on funding deeds and programming. Ford Park Courts - $1m, Bega Sporting Complex - $8.5m and Pambula Sporting Complex - $4m

**Felicity Gates left the meeting at 1.10pm*

Other Items for discussion (John Grady)

- Public Toilets Strategy (*document attached with minutes*)

Broad strategy to be workshopped with Council, deferred adoption subject to more detail on sites/facilities and programming. Feedback is most welcomed on key items from the *BVSC Public Toilet Strategy* document attached.

It was acknowledged that the committee endorses the general approach in the Public Toilet Strategy.

- Bruce Steer Pool Water Access Ramp

At the last AAIC meeting the sketch for Bruce Steer Pool access ramp was included in discussion, principally to inform of investigations on an alternate location. Works are currently taking place on this project as it is included as an item in the Bruce Steer Pool Coastal Access Plan.

Stage 1: provide an all abilities concrete walkway into the water of Bruce Steer Pool which connects with surrounding pedestrian pavement areas. The walkway will be approximately 50m long and 2m wide with DDA compliant grade of 1:20 and landings at 15m intervals as required by Australian Standards.

In progressing design work on the concrete path concrete pier footings were likely to become a high cost item. Alternate location (eastern side over the rock) and a lighter (fiberglass composite decking) slightly raised structure as another option, whilst retaining the concept of a fixed path to DDA compliant grades. Delivering this item will provide an even grade, DDA compliant, stable point of entry into the water. An improvement on the existing. Options are:

1. Progress with the fixed path into the water. It will be an improvement; but will have its limitations as noted above.

2. Focus on design work only for the water access element for now. Note that it will become a different project and approvals/construction/install will need additional external funding to be sourced.

**All John Grady's 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

5.4 AIAC Correspondence – to chair

31/01/2020 Chris Sparks Evacuation information on accessibility - noted

10/02/2020 NSW Government Disability Advocacy - noted

5.5 AIAC Correspondence – from chair

06/12/2019 Sue Thomas Letter for AIAC casual member

New Action: Invite to be forwarded from the AIAC Secretariat to Sue for the May meeting.

06/12/2019 Wendy McDonald Letter for AIAC casual member

New Action: Colin Dunn to follow up with Wendy McDonald to seek her interest.

03/02/2020 Jason Apps Invitation to attend AIAC Meeting

5.6 Access Improvement Grants

Grants awarded (Alice Howe)

- EnviroKey t/a On the Perch Bird Park has closed down business, return of funding received on 11/01/2020 for both 2019 projects.
- Sapphire Coast Buslines requested an extension on acquittal date due to the bushfires for the 2018 Sapphire Seniors Access Improvement Project. This extension was granted.
- Potoroo Palace acquittal received for 2018 Disabled Toilet Project 16/01/2020.
- Bemboka Lions Club acquittal received for 2019 Colombo Park Public Toilet upgrade 15/01/2020.
- Disbursement of surplus grant funds includes approx. $16K to be awarded and to be determined by Councillors. John Grady identified the following project suggestions to utilise surplus funding;

- Merimbula Boat Ramp surrounds – Accessible Furniture and paths improvements
- Kianinny – Path / Ramp improvements Carpark to BBQ area
- Old Bega Race Course - Paths to access amenities
- Pambula Beach – Link shop to surf club
- Pambula Town – Link Pamboola to town
- Shire - Boat Ramp Pontoon hand / stability support posts @$500 each (FYI we are getting 2 made up as a trial)
- Cocora Beach – Path links Amenities BBQ Playground
- Bermagui Skate Park – Ramp to skatepark shelter
- Ford Park perimeter path (rotary project proposal)
- Plastic Beach access ramps (like Pambula Beach and Ford Park) (select suitable sites – i.e. Cocoa Beach)
- Bermagui Horseshoe Bay Viewing area renewal (design)
- Contribution to Fishpen water access project design / R&D (rotary project)

New Action: Nominated Representative, Ron Finneran, to consult with John Grady to select a suitable project for funding.

5.7 Recognition of Service

Colin Dunn was recognised and rewarded for his desire to help build and promote the local community has seen him co-found the popular Pambula Men's Shed, get involved with the Sapphire Aquatic Centre, serving as Chair from 2011 to 2017, and served on the Pambula Hospital Community Engagement Committee and Southern Area Health Community Consultative Committee.

Access and Inclusivity are two more passions that have seen Colin volunteer as the Executive Officer of the Bureau of Accessible Tourism (BOAT) and an active member of Bega Valley Shire Council's Access and Inclusion Committee.

A big congratulations to Colin Dunn on his Australia Day Award!

5.8 Other Business

Jen Russell discussed Tulgeen's proposal to extend services in Bega and confirmed that a site has been selected.

Laura Golding to commence maternity leave, finishing up in the AIAC Secretariat role.
Shelli Reid will be commencing in the Secretariat Role from April 2020. Further contact details for Shelli will be forwarded to the AIAC over the coming weeks upon her commencement.

Meeting closed 1.45pm

Next meeting to be held at 11am, 11 May 2020