

Access Advisory Committee

5 December 2016



Minutes

HELD AT Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre

Present

Ron Finneran OAM (Chair)	Sue Thomas	Peter Newton (BVSC)
Cr. Bain	Nathan Johnston	Ian Macfarlane (BVSC)
Graham Carmody	Rosemary Oates	Jeff Tipping (BVSC)
Jennifer Dessens	Anthony Basford (BVSC)	Keith Tull (BVSC)
John Reynolds	Simon Schweitzer (BVSC)	Katrina Berenguer (BVSC)
Colin Dunn	John Grady (BVSC)	

1 Welcome and Apologies

Welcome to Cr Bain as the new Councillor appointed to the Access Advisory Committee (AAC).

Michaela Pascolutti attended the meeting as a guest of the Chair.

That the apology submitted by Chris Sparks for their inability to attend the meeting be accepted.

2 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the previous AAC meeting held on 5 September 2016 be taken as read.

Motion moved by Ron Finneran and seconded by Sue Thomas.

3 Guest Speakers

3.1 Cr Sharon Tapscott

Cr Tapscott advised that she attended the Local Government NSW conference in October 2016. The Motion to consider new legislation to improve local business access was carried unopposed. This was a great result as many motions are not even considered. **New Action:** Cr Tapscott recommended that the AAC continue to lobby at a State Level.

Cr Tapscott said that she spoke to The Hon John Ajaka, Minister for Ageing and Disability Services at the conference regarding boat ramps and pathways not being included in disaster funding due to their classification as recreation and leisure facilities. She recommended that he be invited to visit the Bega Valley Shire.

Post meeting note – A request to invite The Hon John Ajaka to the Bega Valley Shire has been forwarded to The Hon Andrew Constance's office and we are waiting for a reply.

On behalf of the AAC, Ron Finneran thanked Cr Tapscott for her time and valuable contribution to the committee.

11:15 am Cr Tapscott departed the meeting and Jennifer Dessens joined the meeting.

3.2 Access4All

Michaela Pascolutti advised that the Access4All App was launched in October 2016. Business audits and reviews are still being conducted but it is a time consuming process. They are in the process of finalising Bega, Merimbula and Pambula areas.

The App was tested recently with the first out of town visitor. The visitor recognised some issues with a local tourist attraction and provided the feedback. This resulted in the facility being upgraded. Hopefully this is how the App will assist in businesses improving their access to the public.

Michaela would welcome any input or anyone who would like to be involved.

Rosemary Oates commended Michaela for a great effort and asked if any contact had been made with any Tourism agencies?

Michaela advised that the longer term vision is that she would like the App to work like Trip Advisor.

11:20 am Anthony Basford joined the meeting

4 Business arising from last meeting

Action Items & Outcomes Register Update

Item 11/2016 – Shared pathway from Merimbula to Pambula

Action Update: Ian Macfarlane advised that the pathway had been initially installed by Rotary and consisted mostly of asphalt laid over sand. Upon further investigation Council could not afford to replace the entire pathway but have targeted a number of the most dangerous areas and replaced with concrete sections and root barriers at a cost of approx. \$35k. Pathway is due to be completed this week and will be an ongoing work in progress.

Ron Finneran advised that the grass weeds had overgrown on some of the pathway making it very narrow.

Ian Macfarlane advised that the pathway is on the weed maintenance program and will be attended to as per the works schedule however as it runs through wooded areas this will always be a problem.

Item 10/2016 – Waterfront Café toilet for public use

Action Update: Jeff Tipping advised that the owner has engaged an access consultant and is working on a plan to improve the accessibility of the toilet which is only for patrons of the business.

Rosemary Oates said that it was a great start and will be a welcomed contribution to the community.

Anthony Basford advised that it was agreed to have a broader look at public toilets in the Shire at the last Council meeting.

Cr Bain said that this will be an opportunity for access issues to be addressed with a program to renew/upgrade.

Item 9/2016 – State Disability Council

Action Update: Anthony has made contact with Paul Zeller and he has agreed to attend future

meetings and receive a copy of the AAC minutes. No discussion about changing the classification of pharmacies to an essential service was undertaken.

Item 7/2016 – Companion Card Scheme

Action Update: John Reynolds advised that he has mentioned this initiative to some local businesses and referred them to the website. Ron Finneran advised that he had not progressed to date.

Item 1/2016 – Outdoor Furniture Design

Action Update: Final version of the table design is attached to the minutes. This design will be great for community groups and will be distributed with approval of works.

Action 12/2016 – SCIA Accessible Toilets Program

Action Update: Public toilet audit was conducted by Ron Finneran, Colin Dunn, John Reynolds and Graham Carmody. Ron Finneran advised that he is waiting for a report from SCIA.

Action 14/2015 – Inclusion Action Plan

Action Update: Simon Schweitzer advised that the Disability Inclusion Action Plan will be produced internally as a lot of resources have become available within the Government Departments. The next step is to have discussions internally with other departments in Council regarding achievable outcomes for the plan.

The AAC will be provided with a draft copy of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan for comment and will also be put on public display.

Once adopted by Council, the Disability Inclusion Action Plan will need to be sent to the NSW State Government by 30 June 2017.

5 New and other business

5.1 Sub-committees reports/updates

Bermagui – Sue Thomas

Bermagui Pharmacy - Sue contacted the Pharmacy Guild regarding pharmacies being classified as an essential service. They advised that they can only enforce if the pharmacy is accredited.

Accessible car park on the east end of Lamont Street – a post is obstructing access to the shops. **New Action:** CRM to be raised to address.

Horseshoe Bay Hotel – Accessible entrance is very steep.

New Action: Jeff Tipping to investigate the development application to ensure entrance is compliant.

Surf Life Saving Club Public Toilets – Path of access from town to the accessible toilet in Lamont Street can sometimes collect debris at the bottom of the street and the wheelchair can get bogged.

John Grady advised that the fixed baby change table has been changed to a folding change table to allow more room to move within the accessible toilet.

Bunga Street Carpark – Recommend to change the North end of Bunga Street carpark to an accessible car park only. Currently dangerous for scooters/motorised wheel chairs as the ramp goes over the gutter and doesn't join to the road.

New Action: Peter Newton to arrange a site visit with Sue Thomas to discuss resolving issue and implementing an accessible car park in that area.

Saltwater Carpark – requested an accessible carpark in this area.

Ian Macfarlane advised that the SPIRE town strategy of Bermagui should address a lot of the issues raised.

Bermagui – Graham Carmody

Graham requested an update on Blue Steer Pool.

John Grady advised that the master plan is going to Council for adoption on the 14 December 2016. The master plan includes the new amenities building, carpark and proposed ramp. If the master plan is adopted design work will commence in the new year.

Ron Finneran wanted to note that he believes access issues in Bermagui need to be addressed as a matter of priority in the committee.

Tathra - Various

Cr Bain advised that the Mogareeka accessible toilet door swings the wrong way (outwards).

New Action: CRM to be raised to correct the toilet door.

Post meeting note - Ian MacFarlane has subsequently advised that although this is correct it is unlikely to make the toilet more accessible or indeed compliant and he will carry out further investigation.

Ron Finneran advised that Kianinny Boat Ramp upgrade did not get raised with the AAC from the inception stage and was consulted much later in the process.

Ian Macfarlane responded by saying that engineering plans are often not easy for people to understand at the inception stages, plus there are many stakeholders that need to be included in the consultation process. He believed that the AAC was consulted at the appropriate time and a workable solution achieved.

Anthony Basford advised that once the Engineers had draft plans, they had sought advice from the AAC.

Bega – Nathan Johnston

Nathan requested an update of the lack of accessible pathway to Bega Police Station.

Anthony Basford advised that Council's Place Based Officer, Toby Schaefer-Darling contacted Tony Moody – Chief Inspector this was also raised at the Police Liaison Committee Meeting as an item for further action.

Nathan advised that the camber of footpath out the front of Club Sapphire in Merimbula is dangerous and he nearly had a fall.

New Action: Keith Tull will investigate the development application for Club Sapphire to ensure the entrance is compliant and will advise the outcome.

Candelo/Bemboka – Jennifer Dessens

No issues to report.

Merimbula/Tura Beach – Rosemary Oates

No issues to report. Rosemary wanted to advise that positive feedback has been received regarding the new Tura Marrang library and the increased parking at Merimbula. Illegal parking in accessible carparks is still raising concerns.

Jeff Tipping advised if anyone in the committee ever sees someone parked illegally in an accessible carpark to take photos of the front and back of the vehicle and the dashboard and email directly to Jeff Tipping to action.

Eden/Pambula – Colin Dunn & Ron Finneran

Colin Dunn asked if the accessible pathway will ever be replaced on Pambula Beach.

John Grady advised that some of the pathway was lost in the East Coast low but not all of it was lost. Some of it was used by Pambula Surf Club and the viewing platform. Some of the pathway will be placed at the steeper grade to enable partial access to the beach.

Ron Finneran asked about the EIS on the Eden Port Development.

New Action: Keith Tull advised that he will provide Ron Finneran with a copy on a thumb drive. Council will be providing a comment and he will have a look at access and what has been identified. Feedback will be provided back to the committee via Katrina Berenguer.

5.2 Major Works/developments Projects Update

Pambula Beach Development

Ron Finneran said that he would like a sub-committee formed for the Pambula Beach Development to create a fully accessible beach. Pambula Beach SLSC is a keen stakeholder and should be included.

New Action: A letter of congratulations to be sent to Pambula Beach SLSC from the AAC acknowledging a great job on the construction of the viewing platform.

Tathra Wharf

Anthony Basford advised that the Tathra Wharf repairs have been completed and the access has been restored.

1:10pm Keith Tull, Jeff Tipping and Peter Newton departed the meeting.

5.3 Other Business

New Access Advisory Committee Guidelines

Draft Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Guidelines distributed prior to the meeting.

Anthony Basford advised that draft guidelines will go to Council on the 1 February 2016. Council will then seek new members for the new AAC and all members will need to be approved by Council. First meeting of the new committee will likely be in April/May 2017. Some changes to the new committee are proposed as follows:

- the term will be increased from 2 years to 4 years to align with Councillor terms and other Council committees;
- meet on a quarterly basis, with sub-committees formed to address specific projects/issues;
- the name of the new committee will be changed to the Access Advisory & Inclusion Committee to align with terminology used by the NSW Government;
- oversee assessment of the Access Improvements Grants program distributing \$20k per annum (proposed guidelines and information sheet distributed prior to the meeting); and

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- increase the maximum community positions held from 10 to 12 and the additional 2 positions being designated to include someone from the tourism network and the business sector.

All members agreed with the proposed changes. The motion was forwarded by Colin Dunn and seconded by John Reynolds.

Sue Thomas added that the new committee should change its focus from disability to Access for all.

Budget for 2015/16

Anthony Basford distributed a copy of the AAC budget expended for the 2015/16 financial year. Reserve funds available as at June 2016 \$12,450.

6 Closure

Ron Finneran as Chair and all committee members were thanked for their contribution and valuable time and effort that they have all contributed.

Cr Bain handed out a small gift, Community Service Award and letter of thanks signed by the General Manager and Mayor.

The meeting was declared closed at 2:20pm.