

Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee

12 November 2019



Minutes

HELD AT Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre

Present

Ron Finneran	Alice Howe (BVSC)
Chris Sparks	Anthony McMahon (BVSC)
Rosemary Oates	John Grady (BVSC)
Colin Dunn	Laura Golding (BVSC)
Nathan Johnston	Murray Aston (BVSC)
John Reynolds	Sara Keeley-Smith (BVSC)
Jennifer Russell	

1 Welcome and apologies

That the apologies submitted by Cr Bain, Keith Tull, Anne Cleverley, Ian Macfarlane, Jenny Robb, Graham Carmody, Felicity Gates for their inability to attend the meeting be accepted.

2 Confirmation of minutes

That the minutes of the previous AIAC meeting held on 5 August 2019 be taken as read. Motion moved by Alice Howe and seconded by Rosemary Oates. Unanimously adopted.

3 Presentations to the Committee

- Accessible Parking Audit (Murray Aston)

Parking Inspector, Murray Aston, presented to the committee, outlining the findings regarding accessible parking from a compliance perspective. In total there were 34 Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) issued in the Bega Valley for 'parking within a designated disable space without authority' between 21 May 2019 and 5 November 2019. A spike in PINs was identified throughout the September school holidays. Mr Aston also noted the various regulations implemented by each state and territory regarding Mobility Permit Schemes (MPS).

- Old Bega Hospital Presentation (John Reynolds)

John Reynolds presented to the committee, an update on the Old Bega Hospital and the future proposal of a 2 staged development. The plans include a new entrance with ramp and enclosed verandah, a glass wall for Gallery at the eastern end and a new deck along the northern frontage. The Development Application (DA) for this project was lodged with BVSC on 15 April 2019 and as at 31 May 2019, the sewerage system was the only area to be resolved. Discussions are currently pending with Council staff for finalisation.

- Tulgeen grant funding (Jennifer Russell)

Jennifer Russell advised the committee Tulgeen has secured a \$4.6M funding grant. Currently, they are looking at purchasing land close to the Bega CBD to expand current services, creating job and housing opportunities.

Nathan Johnston brought along to the committee, a 'Go Pro' video of his time at the snow fields. This was played throughout the morning tea break.

Nathan Johnston highlighted the lack of footpath access alongside of road near his workplace.

New Action: Nathan to provide information about site near his workplace with access issues and Council to investigate options to address access constraints.

Nathan Johnston left the meeting 11.40am.

4 Review of Action Items & Outcomes Register

Item No. 21/2019 – Operational Plan 2019/20 – Project List

Alice Howe provided the committee with the Operational Plan 2019/20 which listed a range of infrastructure projects carried out by BVSC. This included transport, sport and recreation, buildings and tourism related areas.

Completed: Alice Howe to follow up on update for Aldi development and provide an update at the November meeting.

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.

Completed: Progress on projects of interest to the committee to be provided as these projects progress.

Aldi development is being privately certified, construction certificate is incomplete, BVSC are yet to receive car parking and access to entrance plans.

Ron Finneran commended the BVSC staff on the progress and developments of the upgraded terminal at Merimbula Airport.

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

Previously 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 Public Use of Land Policy and reinforcing the existing internal process in place to ensure accessibility is appropriately considered in future projects.

John Grady noted an accessible table has been installed under the shelter. The pathway, however, will be difficult to get a reasonable grade. A revision of the Community Project Proposal form is underway, will enable better consideration for projects, referencing accessibility for better outcomes and improvements. This item is now closed.

Item No. 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.

Action: Francis Pearce to follow up and provide an update at the November meeting.

New Action: Ron Finneran to follow up and provide update at the February meeting, due to Frank Pearce's resignation.

Item No 13/2018 – Bega accessible parking

Jason Deller advised the audit on all accessible public parking spaces have been carried out. In total there were x70 accessible spaces with x21 of those deemed compliant. The team are currently looking at ways to progress and complete further works needing to be assessed, striving for 1 in 50 to be of an accessible parking space. It was noted some towns have minimal spaces but are looking to expand these areas.

Action: Jason Deller to circulate a link to the committee before its next meeting to review and provide commentary/input on the 'non-compliant' spaces. Committee to report back at the Nov meeting.

Due to Jason Deller's resignation, the update was deferred to the February meeting and reassigned to Anthony McMahon.

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

This item now closed.

Item No. 11/2018 – RMS Eden

Cr. Bain had previously advised the owner of the building are the tenants and referred to the previous discussion into the audit of the amount of available accessible car spaces. Carried over due to Cr Bain's apology for the November meeting.

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.

This item is now transferred to Business Sub Committee/Colin Dunn

Item No 7/2018 – Misuse of disabled parking stickers

Alice Howe noted that Council will be briefed on progress with the current parking compliance trial on 14 August 2019. An update from the briefing will be provided at the November committee meeting.

Parking Inspector, Murray Aston presented audit findings at the November meeting. Closed.

Item No 12/2017 – Bunga Street, Bermagui

Ron Finneran raised a concern there is a hazard from the road to entrance access and the allocated accessible car park in question.

Anthony McMahon noted the design has not been completed and still undergoing work.

New Action: Anthony McMahon to circulate plans to AIAC before February meeting.

Item No 18/2016 – Access to Club Sapphire

Anthony McMahon noted the budget for this project is available and currently working through the design stage.

New Action: Anthony McMahon to circulate plans to AIAC before February meeting.

5 New and other Business

5.1 Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee Update requests

Ron Finneran provided an update to the committee on a concern raised by the Merimbula Big Game and Angling Club around the lack of pontoon and boat access support rail at Quarantine Bay. A stainless pole was suggested to be put in place to assist.

John Grady advised his team are currently investigating this issue, in which the need was identified throughout the consultation process. Without an allocated budget for this project he is currently looking into other funding sources and expects completion of a handrail by June 30, 2020.

New Action: John Grady to circulate the design work before the February 2020 meeting.

5.2 Sub Committees reports and updates

Business (Colin Dunn)

Nil

Community (John Reynolds)

As presented in *item 3. Presentations to the Committee.*

Tourism (Jenny Robb)

Ron Finneran and Jenny Robb presented at the Sapphire Coast Destination Marketing tourism networking event at Wheelers Restaurant on 12th September 2019. A slide show was presented and aimed at educating tourism operators (accommodation, tours, attractions etc.) about the opportunities that abound if they showcase the accessibility of their businesses. Examples of how best to do this were presented. The main messages were:

- people identifying with a disability need clear, accurate information so they can make an informed decision before booking a holiday;
 - the market is not just people in wheelchairs, but the elderly and those with small children using prams;
 - there are many economic benefits to businesses operating in this sector if they provide the right information, and market it in the right areas;
 - above all, if they have a tab on their website home page that shows the blue icon (see attached), and links to an information page, they can attract a whole new market to their business - and provide a person with a disability a great holiday in the process.
- SCDM have been asked to distribute a flyer to their entire networks.

Ron Finneran noted advancing these tourism issues before the Christmas period.

Rosemary Oates noted the commitment from Council staff over the past years to achieve positive outcomes for accessibility issues throughout the Bega Valley and requested all to consider BVSC staff's competing priorities.

Chris Sparks discussed advocacy within the Physical Disability Organisation NSW. The AIAC resolved (moved John Reynolds, seconded Chris Sparks) to request that Council advocate for continued funding for disability advocacy support.

New Action: Alice Howe to prepare a report for Council asking for Council to advocate for disability advocacy support. Chris Sparks to provide background information to inform the report to Council.

5.3 Major works/developments Projects Updates

Operational Plan 19/20 Projects of Interests

The following representatives were added to the Projects of Interest as below; *(full copy attached to minutes)*

Eden All Abilities Playground*	\$200,000 Council Contribution: 50%	NSW Department of Planning Everyone Can Play in NSW	Submitted	Jennifer Russell
Lake St Merimbula Shared Path (from Main Street to Bar Beach)	\$2,000,000	RMS Active Transport Program	Commenced	Ron Finneran
Bega Valley Regional Sports Hub (Bega & Pambula)*	\$13,500,000 Council Contribution: \$2,560,000	Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund	Submitted	Bega – Ron Finneran Pambula – Colin Dunn
Tathra to Kalaru Bike Track	\$3,000,000	RMS Active Transport Program	Commenced	John Reynolds
Accessible Nature Trails - Tura Coastal Reserves*	\$200,000 + Council Contribution \$102,084	NSW Stronger Country Communities - Round 2	Commenced	John Reynolds
Connectivity Improvements to the Port of Eden (including upgrade of Albert Terrace intersection)	\$1,600,000 + \$1,695,900	Australian Government Building Better Regions Round 2 + Fixing Country Roads	Funded	Jenny Robb

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Merimbula Regional Airport Commercial Tourism Aviation Precinct	\$8,020,000 + Council Contribution: \$3,628,960	Australian Government Building Better Regions Fund Round 3	Submitted	Ron Finneran
Merimbula Town Centre Streetscape Revitalisation	\$11,200,000 + Council Contribution: \$2,500,000	Growing Local Economies NSW Regional Growth Fund	Submitted	John Reynolds & Rosemary Oates
Eden All Abilities Playground*	\$200,000 Council Contribution: 50%	NSW Department of Planning Everyone Can Play in NSW	Submitted	Jenny Robb
Bermagui All Abilities Playground*	\$376,507 Council Contribution: \$41,834	Stronger Country Communities – Round 2	Commenced	Sue Thomas

Other Items for discussion (John Grady)

John Grady presented to the committee, a PowerPoint presentation an update on the current development of BVSC major projects.

Tathra Headland Walk

Contractor GDB excavations is ahead of programme with all major civil works including concreting complete. Stainless Steel balustrades by SCE in production. Paving is anticipated to be completed this mid-November 2019.

Further funding has been sourced for solar lighting, mulching and planting, these works are due to commence after Summer. Expected completion will be 18 December 2019, ready for official opening.

Bruce Steer

Currently seeking feedback from Fisheries on structural works on a fixed 1.2m wide ramp. Request for Quote was successfully awarded to contractor 'Devone' for the amenities block, including one accessible and three ambulant.

Ron Finneran raised concerns around accessibility of 'how' to utilise the chair and the width of ramp for two wheelchairs crossing pathways.

Alice Howe suggested a community group may be able to assist with management of a chair.

Short Point

Detail design underway with Environmental Partnership Draft Concepts. Stakeholder meeting scheduled for late November 2019.

Pambula Beach

Detail design well in progress. Stakeholder meeting recently held, with another meeting scheduled in 2 – 3 weeks. Final civils, playground equipment, amenities/layout in discussion.

Bermagui Inclusive Playspace

Concept included in Council report 20 November 2019. Work with access to Sinclair Cove and Bermagui BGAC weigh gantry. Additional space for future markets and installation of a permitter path at later date. Assessment for amenities upgrade underway, aiming to reconfigure/retro fit the existing building.

Bega Park

RFQ is now out, going to tender shortly. A 1.2m path from new BBQ area to amenities. Aiming for works to commence in the first quarter of 2020.

Camel Rock

Accessible grades to end Dimond grid, from here the steepness increases (aim is for no steps). Bridges RFQ awarded and picnic tables to be installed. Design reviews completed by Fisheries.

Tura Reserves

Tura Head has very good accessible opportunities, with relatively flat grades along an elevated ridge line and excellent coastal views. Good site to make very big improvements and get very good outcomes.

Eden All Abilities Playground

Working on finalising funding from Federal Government. Community Development Grant project valued at \$400k, site to be confirmed.

Jennifer Russell left the meeting 12.50pm.

Sporting Hubs Projects

Currently working with the Office of Sport on funding deeds and programming.

Ford Park Courts - \$1m

Bega Sporting Complex - \$8.5m

Pambula Sporting Complex - \$4m

Swimming Pools Strategy

SRV Report going to the 20 November 2019 Council meeting. Council to consider funding of six pool strategy. Further report subject to outcome. Modern facilities need to be compliant, accessible, sustainable and meet expectations.

Public Toilets Strategy

Broad strategy reported to Council. Council deferred adoption subject to more detail on sites/facilities and programming.

Anthony McMahon noted further detail of priority sites required, feedback advised before the next AIAC meeting.

New 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.

**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

With the recent resignations received from AIAC members Francis Pearce and Michaela Pascolutti, Alice Howe recommended to appoint two 12-month casual vacancies. Motion moved by John Reynolds, seconded by Colin Dunn.

Discussions around the table were had regarding two suitable candidates with demonstrated interest in accessibility in the Bega Valley.

New Action: Ron Finneran to invite Wendy McDonald and Sue Thomas to actively participate to backfill a 12-month position with the AIAC.

5.5 AIAC Correspondence – from chair

Pambula Coastal Accessibility Project Update, attachment noted.

5.6 Access Improvement Grants

Grants awarded (Alice Howe)

Current AIG for 2019 are progressing well, all grant agreements and tax invoices have been received. The AIAC Secretariat has processed payments and funds have been transferred for works to commence. Final report and acquittals are due January 2021.

The AIAC Secretariat had received and processed outstanding final reports and acquittals from the 2017 Access Improvement Grant (AIG) round.

New Action: AIAC Secretariat to ensure previous AIG applicants have displayed the below symbol on their websites, in a prominent position so that the community and customers are aware of their access friendly business. To be checked upon time of grant acquittal.



Projects outstanding from the 2018 AIG round, final report and acquittals are due January 2020.

Alice Howe discussed the excess funds from previous grant rounds and options to utilise the \$12,464 carry over.

New Action: Committee members to identify asap and before Christmas, priority projects to disburse the remaining funds (which may include into the Quarantine Bay Pontoon Project to assist with the handrail support along the ramp).

New Action: John Grady to email committee with costs for handrails once quotes are evaluated (before Christmas).

Meeting closed 1:40pm

Next meeting to be held on 3 February 2019