

Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee

12 November 2018



Minutes

HELD AT Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre

Present

Ron Finneran OAM	John Reynolds
Cr Robyn Bain	Kristina Brenner (BVSC)
Chris Sparks	John Grady (BVSC)
Graham Carmody	Jason Deller (BVSC)
Colin Dunn	Cecily Hancock (BVSC) on behalf of Keith Tull
Rosemary Oates	Jonathon Pyke (BVSC)
Francis Pearce	Ian Macfarlane (BVSC)
Michaela Pascolutti	Katrina Berenguer (BVSC)

1 Welcome and apologies

That the apologies submitted by Felicity Gates, Jenny Robb, Jennifer Russell, Nathan Johnston, and Keith Tull for their inability to attend the meeting be accepted.

2 Confirmation of minutes

That the minutes including the amendment of the previous AIAC meeting held on 27 August 2018 be taken as read. Motion moved by Ron Finneran and seconded by Colin Dunn. The majority of the AIAC agreed.

3 Review of Action Items & Outcomes Register

Item No 15/2018 – Tathra Taylor’s Square inclusive playground

John Grady advised that the toilet block has been identified as a potential site for a Changing Places facility. There is no scope in the inclusive playground project but will add as a possible future project and grant funding.

It was discussed that for all future major projects like Bunnings that management are approached at the early planning stages and requested to incorporate a Changing Places facility.

Item No 14/2018 – Accessible car space at Merimbula Wharf

Jason Deller advised that this project has not progressed since the last meeting. Project scope is to install the new accessible car space on the lower level adjacent to the aquarium fire exit door. Ron Finneran requested that Council work with the owner of the restaurant/aquarium to incorporate a ramp into the business as part of this project.

Item No 13/2018 – Bega accessible parking

Jason Deller advised that there are many challenges installing compliant parallel accessible car spaces at Peden Street near the Community Pantry and also on Church Street because the gradient of the footpath would need to change. Not only is it difficult to find a solution but all

options are expensive. Angle parking could be considered which would require the street to become one way only. Some businesses would be opposed by this option. There is also the heritage gutter and kerbs that would need to be removed and replaced in consultation with a Heritage consultant.

Due to this project being quite costly it was asked about the tenure of the lease at the Community Pantry on Peden Street. Michaela Pascolutti advised that they have a 1 year lease up until February 2019 with an option to renew for 3 years. It was considered that this was not a long lease period and that it was not a good investment if the business moved location within 3-4 years.

The majority of the Committee did agree that there did seem to be adequate accessible parking in Bega.

Cecily Hancock recommended that a Heritage Conservation Consultant be engaged to conduct an analysis plan for the Bega CBD heritage kerbs. The plan would then need to be adopted by Council and used as a tool for any further maintenance or works on the heritage gutter/kerbs in Bega.

New Action: Rosemary Oates moved a motion for the AIAC to endorse the recommendation to engage a Heritage Conservation Consultant to conduct an analysis plan for the Bega CBD heritage kerbs maintenance or works. The majority of the AIAC all agreed.

Item No. 11/2018 – RMS Eden

Cr. Bain advised that the carpark is privately owned and RMS need to negotiate with the owner to relocate the driver testing area so that the accessible ramp has adequate access.

Item No. 10/2018 – Alice Street, Merimbula

Cr. Bain advised that the conversion of one to two accessible car spaces on Alice Street is still progressing via the Local Traffic Committee.

Amended Companion Animals Control Areas Procedure

Cr. Bain requested the AIAC to review the amended Companion Animal Control Areas Procedure particularly in relation to accessibility for people with mobility issues. The amended procedure is currently on exhibition and open for comment until the 4 December 2018.

New Action: Katrina Berenguer to send the AIAC the link to Council's website to review the amended Companion Animals Control Areas Procedure and submit any feedback or comments.

Cr. Bain left the meeting at 12:15pm

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

Jonathon Pyke advised that the lift and access path has been fully cleared and ready for use. An electrician has been engaged to repair and make the lift fully operational this week.

Item No 7/2018 – Misuse of disabled parking stickers

Cecily Hancock advised that Council is actively recruiting Rangers but will take a couple of months before they are on board.

Chris Sparks suggested that the Rangers increase their coverage of monitoring illegal disabled car parking during peak periods in Christmas and Easter. It was advised that the NSW fine for misuse of disabled parking is \$659.

Jonathon Pyke advised that a casual Ranger has just been hired for that purpose.

Please note that there is a hotline for reporting abuse of the MPS by phoning 1300 884 899 or email Customer_Service_Centre@rms.nsw.gov.au.

Attached is a link to the RMS regarding the Mobility Parking Scheme (MPS) conditions of use, parking concessions and driver declaration.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/about/forms/45071549-mps-conditions-of-use.pdf>

Jonathon Pyke also advised that if anyone sees someone illegally parked in an accessible car park to take a photo of the sign, front windscreen, number plate and include the date and time. Send to the Snap, Send & Solve application that can be downloaded at

<https://www.snapsendsolve.com/>

Ron Finneran distributed to the Committee cards displayed below that can be placed on vehicles windscreens if they are illegally parked. It is not legally binding just a prompt for people who are illegally parking in accessible car spaces.



It was suggested by Michaela Pascolutti to include a community awareness notice regarding the misuse of disabled parking stickers and or illegal parking in accessible car spaces in Council News to be distributed via social media and our website. Should also include some of the AIAC's achievements to raise the profile of the Committee.

Action: Kristina Brenner to organise a community awareness article in the next Council News regarding the profile of the AIAC and community awareness of misuse of disabled parking stickers/illegal parking in accessible car spaces.

Item No 06/2018 – 2017 Access Grant Round

Katrina Berenguer advised that a 2017 Access Grant acquittal has been received and approved by Eden Service and Social Club Inc for the Lake Curalo Boardwalk Link Project.

Item No 13/2017 – Increase accessible car spaces in Merimbula

Jason Deller advised that this project is on hold until the Merimbula Parking Study is completed.

Item No 12/2017 – Bunga Street, Bermagui

Kristina Brenner advised that the General Manager has approved for Council to install an accessible car space on Bunga Street, Bermagui before the Bermagui Masterplan is adopted. The project is currently being scoped and will likely be funded next financial year.

Item No 19/2016 – Status of the EIS on the Eden Port Development

Jenny Robb was advised by Coral Reynolds from the Eden Breakwater Wharf Extension Project that the project is Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant.

Cecily Hancock advised that Council will be asked for input/comment via planning as the project progresses.

4 New and other Business

4.1 AIAC Committee Update requests

None received.

4.2 Sub Committees reports and updates

Business – Colin Dunn & Michaela Pascolutti

Business Strategy is to address local businesses by the following:

1. Renewed focus on the Access 4 All application to highlight issues to local businesses and change the way they think about access. Not a name and shame but motivation to change to increase business opportunities.
2. Presentation to Chambers of Commerce meetings to champion “Access is Good Business”. Use statistical research information from TravAbility website to highlight benefits of having an accessible business. <http://travability.travel/blog-node/understanding-opportunity-australia-accessible-tourism>

New Action: Colin Dunn moved a motion for the AIAC to support the broad business strategy by renewing the focus on the Access 4 All application and making presentation to the Chambers of Commerce on behalf of the AIAC to raise awareness “Access is Good Business”.

Ron Finneran supports the Business Strategy and would like Council to fund this initiative.

Chris Sparks advised that at the Sapphire Coast Tourism Forum on the 15 November 2018 there is no mention of Inclusive Tourism on the agenda which is disappointing.

Ron Finneran advised that he will be attending on behalf of the AIAC and will raise this issue.

Community

John Reynolds advised that there are no new items.

Tourism – Jenny Robb provided a report which is attached.

12:30pm Chris Sparks left the meeting.

4.3 2018 Access Improvement Grants

Kristina Brenner advised that six applications were received in the 2018 Access Improvement Grants round. Four applications have been deemed successful with some conditions totalling \$16,800. Remaining funds total \$3,200 which will be rolled over to next year. Will be reviewed and endorsed by Council at its meeting on the 21 November 2018.

Ron Finneran raised the issue of road signage wearing off quickly on rough gravel surfaces. Ian Macfarlane advised that only signage on ashfelt roads last for many years.

Ron Finneran requested that all future Access Grants that include an accessible car space in the project scope that a condition be included in the Grant Agreement that road signage is to be placed on ashfelt surfaces only.

4.4 Recreation Projects Update

Taylor’s Square Inclusive Playground

John Grady advised that the exhibition package and design plans for Taylor’s Square Inclusive Playground in Tathra would be on exhibition for community feedback before Christmas. At that time he will be asking the AIAC to provide feedback.

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After the community consultation period, the finalised concept design will be reviewed and adopted by Council. Scheduled completion, June 2019.

A hand out was distributed to the AIAC with a summary of Projects split into four areas:

1. Playground
2. Sporting Facilities
3. Parkland and Natural Areas; and
4. Boating Facilities Projects.

4.4 Other Business

Frank Pearce raised concerns that Aboriginal people in the Bega Valley Shire were not being consulted or asked about access issues.

Action: Ron Finneran moved to support a representative from the Committee to attend the next Koori Interagency Network meeting to raise the profile of the AIAC to aboriginal people. The majority of the AIAC agreed.

Meeting closed 1:30pm.