

Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee

13 November 2017



Minutes

HELD AT Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre

Present

Ron Finneran OAM (arrived 11:45am)	Michaela Pascolutti
Chris Sparks (Acting Chair)	Anthony Basford (BVSC)
Graham Carmody	John Grady (BVSC)
John Reynolds	Gary Louie (BVSC) attending on behalf of Jason Deller
Colin Dunn	Jason Heffernan (BVSC) attending on behalf of Ian Macfarlane
Sue Thomas	Jonathon Pyke (BVSC) attending on behalf of Jeff Tipping (arrived 11:15am)
Felicity Gates (departed 12:30pm)	Katrina Berenguer (BVSC)

1 Welcome and apologies

That the apologies submitted by Cr Robyn Bain, Rosemary Oates, Nathan Johnston, Jenny Robb, Jennifer Russell, Francis Pearce, Jason Deller, Ian Macfarlane, Keith Tull for their inability to attend the meeting be accepted.

Anthony Basford advised the committee that Jeff Tipping has retired from Council.

2 Confirmation of minutes

That the minutes of the previous AIAC meeting held on 14 August 2017 be taken as read. Motion moved by Colin Dunn and seconded by Graham Carmody. The majority of the AIAC agreed.

3 Review of Action Items & Outcomes Register

Item No 7/2016 – Promote awareness of the Companion Card

It was agreed that this item will be addressed via the Business sub-committee. Action to be removed from the register.

Item No 9/2016 – Pharmacies classification to be changed to an essential service

Sue Thomas reported that Bermagui Pharmacy is not a member of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia do not have a regulatory requirement to enforce acceptable access, they can only encourage their members of recommended best practice. The only option left is for Sue as an individual to apply under the NSW Disability Exclusion Act.

Item No 10/2016 – Merimbula accessible public toilet

John Grady advised that the Leisure and Recreation section have completed the Bega Valley Shire amenities review and is ready to present the strategy to Councillors in the first quarter of 2018 for approval and direction.

Chris Sparks raised Changing Places which is a project to advocate for public toilets with full sized change tables and hoists in major public spaces across Australia. For more information refer to website www.changingplaces.org.au.

It is more cost effective to install at construction stage rather than incorporate into an existing toilet. It would also need to be at a supervised site.

New Action: Ron Finneran on behalf of the AIAC to make a formal suggestion to incorporate a Changing Places toilet into the new Merimbula airport design.

Item No 13/2016 – NSW legislative improvements in Access

Anthony Basford to provide dot points of the resolution and outcome to Chris Sparks to raise at the Disability Council.

Item No 15/2016 – Easy access to Horseshoe Bay Hotel

Jonathon Pyke advised that there are new owners of the Horseshoe Bay Hotel and they have been advised by Council of the access improvements that need to be made. They will be installing a ramp down to Lamont Street and also installing internal ramps. They have plans in place to make the building fully accessible by the end of next year.

Item No 17/2016 – Mogareeka accessible toilet door

Jason Heffernan advised that a steel fabricator needed to be appointed to rectify the issue with the door and will be completed by 14 November 2017. Action completed.

All other items are deferred to the next meeting.

4 Access Improvement Grants

The Access Improvement Grants assessment panel that included Anthony Basford, Cr Robyn Bain, Ron Finneran and Colin Dunn met on the 17 October 2017 to review the Access Improvement Grant applications.

A hard copy of the assessment summary detailing recommendations from the assessment panel was distributed to the AIAC to review and endorse. All the project applications were assessed on the following:

- Common eligibility criteria
- Common assessment criteria - under the Local Government Act Section 356, the activity must have otherwise been completed by Council.
- Specific grant criteria - the improvements needed to be used by multiple people/not just a certain service or group of people.

Felicity Gates asked if the unsuccessful applicants will be provided feedback on the reasons why they were not successful.

Anthony Basford advised that after Council approves the recommendations all applicants that are not successful will be provided feedback and encouraged to apply at the next round if applicable.

Motion moved by Felicity Gates for the AIAC to endorse the recommendations made by the Access and Improvement Grants assessment panel and seconded by Michaela Pascolutti. The majority of the AIAC agreed.

The recommendations in the assessment summary will be submitted to Council for approval on the 22 November 2017.

5 New and other business

5.1 Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee Update Form

IMB Eden entrance step

Anthony Basford advised that in June 2016 a letter was sent by Ron Finneran on behalf of the AIAC to Simon Dunn, the Eden Branch Manager and the owner of the building advising them of the step access issue and requesting to consult with the committee to resolve.

Anthony was advised by Simon Dunn that he was looking into the issue but there has not been any formal response to date.

New Action: Ron Finneran to send a follow up letter to the Eden IMB Branch Manager to request the access to be improved.

Gary Louie advised that owners need to apply under Section 138 for works carried out within a Council Road Reserve for an upgrade to an entrance of a business if it leads to a public footpath.

Safe Access - Bunga Street, Bermagui

Sue Thomas advised that she met with Jason Deller in June 2017 at the site and he was in the view that this issue will not be addressed until a new Bermagui Masterplan is adopted by Council. A new Masterplan will not be completed in the near future. Sue believes that it is a safety issue and needs to be immediately addressed. She also expressed her concern that it has taken 7 years for only a partial resolution to this access issue.

Jonathon Pyke advised that the Rangers are addressing the use of milk crates by the nearby café which is contributing to the safety risk of pedestrians.

New Action: Sue Thomas moved the motion to formally raise this issue as a high priority to the Traffic Committee to install an accessible car park on the north side of the Eastern end of Bunga Street, Bermagui and John Reynolds seconded the motion. The majority of the AIAC agreed.

5.2 Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP)

Howard Emanuel's letter requested the AIAC to include and recognise mental health as a disability in the Bega Valley Shire DIAP.

Anthony Basford has sent a response letter to Howard Emanuel advising him that the DIAP will be updated to include mental health at the next document update.

5.3 Sub Committee updates

Business

The Business Sub Committee members are Colin Dunn, Michaela Pascolutti & Cr Robyn Bain. They are working on the following projects:

- Good Access is Good Business pamphlet
- Grants available/guidelines
- Companion Card

Community

The Community Sub Committee members are John Reynolds, Rosemary Oates, Felicity Gates and Frank Pearce. John Reynolds presented the following:

- Church Street, Bega limited access near Centrelink offices
- Excessive taxi spaces in Merimbula on Beach Street & Main Street outside Club Sapphire. An opportunity for increased accessible parking in Merimbula.

New Action: Katrina Berenguer to circulate a copy of the Merimbula Masterplan to the AIAC. To be sent with minutes of meeting.

Jonathon Pyke advised that he has met with the Rangers and there will be increased focus over the Christmas/holiday period of monitoring accessible car parks and dangerous car parking.

If any AIAC members witness someone incorrectly parking in an accessible car park they can send a photo and details to the “Snap, Send & Solve” app available via the Council website. The photo must include the number plate and also the front window screen.

Tourism

The Tourism Sub Committee members are Ron Finneran, Jenny Robb and Chris Sparks. They are working on the following:

- Ron Finneran is a member of the Sapphire Coast Tourism Board and actively promotes accessible tourism.
- Accessible icon/wheelchair symbol should be used/is preferred. Council have been using on beach access paths.

5.4 Major works/development updates

- Jason Heffernan advised that there will be road works carried out in Gowing Lane (behind the Sapphire Marketplace) in Bega on 16 November 2017. The work will address identified patch cracking and shoving, with a full road closure from between 6am and 6pm.
- Tathra to Kalaru Bike Path/shared path planning phase has commenced.
- John Grady advised that Council is seeking an AIAC member to join the Bega Indoor Sports Building community project group. John Reynolds nominated himself and the majority of the AIAC agreed.
- Coastal Access Masterplan grant application EOI was accepted. If the \$2.2 million grant application is successful the Masterplan will be fully implemented.

Ron Finneran advised that the Merimbula dirt pathway at Short Point Merimbula would need to be reviewed as it is not acceptable.

John Grady advised that the Short Point pathway was a resolution decided by Council and there is no plans to change.

5.5 Other Business

Accessible parking spaces in the Bega Valley Shire

Gary Louie presented an application called ODK Collect developed by Council to use on a phone/mobile using the android platform. It is a system that can speed up the development of recognising accessible parking spaces.

AIAC members can download the application, take a photo of an accessible parking space and send directly to the Council cloud to update the inventory. Please note when taking a photo, the

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linemarking, kerbing and signage arrangement of the space should be taken in the one image. Detailed instructions on how to use ODK Collect is attached to the minutes.

Anthony advised that any AIAC member that wants to participate will be reimbursed for petrol if you want to dedicate a block of time to this project. To claim a reimbursement of petrol send an email to Katrina Berenguer of the date, towns visited and kilometres travelled.

6 Closure and next meeting

The meeting was declared closed at 1:05pm. The next meeting is to be held on the 12 February 2018.