

**Clarence Valley Access Committee
Held in the Maclean Committee Room and via Teams
On Wednesday 15 February 202 at 11am – 12:230pm
Minutes**

Attendance:

Chair: Cr Toms

Minute Taker: Kath Arndell, CVC

Attendees: Cr Toms, Laura Smith-Khan, Dave Moran, Cr Pickering, Kath Arndell (CVC), Vanette McLennan, Zoe Goodsell

Apologies: Jennifer O'Brien, Jody O'Brien, Jason Kingsley and Alana Brooks (CVC)

ACKNOWLEDGEMNT TO COUNTRY by Cr Toms

We acknowledge the Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr and Yaegl people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live and work. We honour the First Nations peoples culture and connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / DECISION FOR ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>Minutes previous meeting –</p> <p>Moved – Dave Moran</p> <p>Seconded – Cr Steve Pickering</p> <p>Previous Business:</p>		
	<p>Advisory Committee minutes</p> <p>There was consensus from participants aiming for the monthly minutes to be included in the next months CVC business paper would be achievable moving forward.</p>	Erin / Kath
	<p>Disabled carparks Maclean</p> <p>Cr Toms acknowledged the unexpected passing of Access Committee member Bevan Sommerlad and advised that she had attended his very moving and emotional service last month.</p> <p>Kath advised that she is liaising with CVC Governance officer Bligh Grant on the process of recruiting a new member to the Access Committee.</p> <p>Bevan had planned to meet with design engineers and Alana Brooks re accessible parking in Maclean. Previous feedback has indicated that Bevan’s vision was not possible, and that Maclean has more accessible carparks than required. Bevan’s strong advocacy in this space was acknowledged.</p> <p>Awaiting results and feedback from Alana to change the accessible spot in McNaughton place to the Post Office.</p>	<p>Erin / Kath</p> <p>Alana</p>
	<p>Accessible Parking – Grafton Chambers & Memorial Park</p>	

	This was a request from Jason Kingsley to change location of space – awaiting Alana’s feedback at next meeting.	Alana
	<p>Access at a Glance</p> <p>Need to book in a date for inspection at the Grafton Regional Library. Kathryn Breward is supportive of same.</p> <p>Access at a Glance stickers yet to be displayed in Maclean and Grafton services centres.</p>	<p>Erin</p> <p>Erin</p>
	<p>Pippi Beach and Turners Beach Access</p> <p>Cr Toms advised that Laura Black GM has advised that the Pippi Beach Access project is in draft CVC capital works program for 2024</p> <p>Design funded in previous budgets and formalising of accessible car parking to link to toilets needs to be confirmed. Cr Toms and Cr Pickering will raise this at 23/24 budget workshops next month.</p> <p>Turners Beach – There maybe some issues with Crown Land and TO’s in this location. Kath suggested inviting new Coordinator Open Spaces Andrew Auglys to the March meeting for an update on this.</p>	<p>Cr Toms and Cr Pickering</p> <p>Kath</p>
	<p>Footpath trading Policy</p> <p>Cr Pickering – noted a non pecuniary conflict of interest but remained in the room.</p> <p>Kath provided an update from Erin as follows; waiting on an update from CVC Strategic Planner, Stephen Timms on where the policy is up to. The Access Committee will be consulted on the draft policy for their feedback. The draft policy is not complete yet.</p>	Erin
	DIAP – engagement	

	<p>Kath outlined the sessions undertaken including market stalls and Justin walked us through navigating to Clarry DIAP survey on the CVC website. Committee members are encouraged to share and complete the survey.</p> <p>Erin has some 1:1 sessions scheduled when she returns from leave.</p> <p>Justin advised that he is also developing a Communications Strategy and that he is considering accessible formats of same.</p> <p>Cr Toms reinforced the importance of ensuring council information is accessible.</p> <p>Cr Toms advised that she recently engaged with a community member with a cochlear implant, who indicated that the hearing loops in CVC customer services centres don't work for her because they are in the wrong place in the office. The same community member has also had ongoing problems with her service dog being impounded following a trip to Italy and also accessing Grafton Shopping World. This community member is a strong advocate for raising awareness about accessibility.</p>	
	<p>Clarence Valley Cultural and Community Precinct design</p> <p>Justin provided an update on the design for the Maclean Community precinct which highlighted a raft of design aspects that showcase the river. Two accessible carparks downstairs and 40 other parks with elevator access to theatre. Entry at rear, not off River Street.</p> <p>Cr Toms noted the side steps at the front of the building leading to the multipurpose room. Justin indicated that there is a ramp to workshop area and building access. Green rooms and dressing room design have changed significantly over past 12 months. Accessibility to bathrooms internally, six allocated wheelchair spots at front and ramped access to pit area and the team are investigating a floor lift capability to access the stage from the pit area. Cr</p>	

	<p>Toms advised that a floor lift is not acceptable. Justin advised that there is a cost factor. Cr Toms advised that this cannot come down to cost, referencing the Disability Act. Accessing the stage by going off the side and into the wing area is also not appropriate. Cr Toms reinforced that PWD don't want help to get where they want to go, they need to be able to that independently, just like a person who does not have a disability. Cr Toms advised that the design is great but its not just there yet. Laura asked if there can be a ramp instead or a floor lift from the pit area to the stage? Cr Toms advised that this is a new build, and it should be able to be achieved. Justin suggested removing approx. 30 seats to accommodate the suggestion of a switch back ramp. Justin will provide feedback to the architects ASAP. Vanette queried the number of accessible carparks to the 6 designated wheelchair spots in the auditorium and only two accessible car parks?</p> <p>Cr Pickering asked Justin about parking for pushbikes and Justin advised that he would follow-up with design team but that this is included in the development plans for Treelands Drive Community Centre.</p> <p>There was general discussion in relation to floor lifts being degrading for PWD to have to use. Best practise is to be able to get on to the stage like everyone else. This is a new build and should be able to be achieved. We should not have to retro fit a new build. Cost should not be used as an excuse, and this is contrary to the legislation.</p> <p>Laura asked how this would impact on safety and having to evacuate the building in an emergency if there is no power and the lift was unable to be used? Zoe advised that we shouldn't be making people feel like we are drawing attention to their disability or waiting for a PWD to get somewhere.</p> <p>Justin advised that the project is at 30% design stage, so feedback is good at this stage and DA submission is planned for March 2023 and project delivery December 2024. Justin provided further context on the functional challenge of</p>	<p>Justin to discuss feedback with architects and present update at March meeting</p> <p>Justin</p>
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	<p>the pit area and explained why the floor lift was initially suggested. Justin advised that a level pathway from wheelchair seating can be achieved. There are accessible toilets with automated doors located on each side of the building including accessible change rooms.</p> <p>Laura asked if there are hearing loops which Justin confirmed, adding that there is no further technical detail at this stage. The need for people with multiple disability to have access to the hearing loops was highlighted.</p> <p>Cr Toms asked if the plans come back to March meeting before DA lodged and Justin confirmed that this would occur.</p>	
Correspondence	<p>Caringa email</p> <p>Cr Toms provided a summary of the correspondence as follows; As part of Caringa’s 70th anniversary celebrations (1953 – 2023) they are hosting numerous events, including a fundraiser for a wheelchair accessible piece of play equipment for installation in a community space (See Park). Cr Toms asked if the email has been forwarded to Justin and Justin confirmed same and confirmed that he is liaising with Peter Birch (CVC Manager Open Spaces). Cr Toms talked about options and that there is a master plan for See Park. Cr Toms to forward full letter to Justin.</p>	Erin / Justin
DAs for Consultation	NIL	
General Business	<p>Cr Pickering recently visited Perth WA he noticed that their beaches were flat and accessible with beach mats and sighted an elderly woman accessing the beach and suggested that CVC should have more of these.</p> <p>Cr Toms advised that in 2016 Jason Kingsley put forward a notice of motion to address this, but our beaches are very ‘active beaches’ therefore there are challenges to the use of beach mats here.</p>	Erin to follow-up with Open spaces and people who use beach wheelchairs as part of DIAP consultation
	<p>Dave raised a general comment in relation to the Maclean Precinct redevelopment, advising, ‘when will steps become obsolete?’ and ‘Why can’t the default option be a ramp, not stairs?’ Zoe agreed stating that steps are</p>	

	<p>'very now' thinking. Cr Toms advised that with a new build is an opportunity to get things right. Its positive that more conversations are happening with the Access Committee to that effect but certainly more work still needs to happen.</p> <p>Dave provided positive feedback in relation to front in parking in Prince Street, Grafton as part of the trial Streets of Shared Spaces project and this was supported by the group as a whole.</p>	
Guest Speaker –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil 	
Meeting closed	12.30pm	
Next Meeting	Wednesday 15 March 2023 at 11am – 12:30pm (extended to 1pm agenda dependent).	

Signed on 17 February 2023 by:

