

Clarence Valley Council

Clarence Valley Access Committee – Minutes

16 August 2023 COMMENCING 11:00am – Maclean Committee Room.

Attendance: Cr Karen Toms, Cr Steve Pickering, Dave Moran, Jason Kingsley, Caitlin Kingsley (guest), Maya Dougherty (CVC), Erin Brady (CVC), Bern Walker (Accessible Beaches)

Meeting Roles

Chair: Cr Karen Toms

Minutes: Erin Brady

Item	Description/Discussion/ Comments	Action	Recommendation
1	Acknowledgment of country	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.	
2	Apologies	Justin Putze, Laura Smith-Khan, Alana Brooks, Jennifer O'Brien, Zoe Goodsell, Stephen Tims, Stewart Mackie.	
3	Declarations of Interest	Nil	
4	Guest Speaker	Bern Walker, Accessible Beaches	
5	Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting held on Moved: Jason Kingsley Second: Cr Steve Pickering		
6	Business Arising from the Minutes		
Item	Description/Discussion/ Comments	Action	Recommendation

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6.01	Extend Prince Street parking trial	Going to August Council meeting to propose trial extended and disabled car park spaces be increased in length - planter boxes moved forward. Also mark out shared spaces so cars don't park in them.	Remove from agenda. EB
6.02	Change accessible carparks update: Prince Street & Memorial Park in Grafton	Alana Brooks and Jason Kinglsey discussed accessible parking spaces on the walk-around they did earlier in August. Jason's preference is to move it along towards the chamber. He said there is an accessible parking space around the corner but it's not obvious. Committee members said they had seen stage 2 plans for the Grafton Waterfront upgrade where carparks on Prince Street beside Memorial Park would be removed. Would this remove planned disabled carparks?	Investigate stage two plans. EB
6.03	Access at a Glance	Jason Kinglsey – Will make plans to do inspections in September. Cr Pickering - is Access at a Glance program available for private businesses? Who do we contact? Jason – Yes it's available for private businesses for free. Contact Social Futures about Access at a Glance –1800 number.	EB and JK plan where to inspect next.

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6.04 Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP)	<p>Draft DIAP going to August Council meeting to be placed on public exhibition. Committee to give feedback at next meeting and/or through submissions process.</p> <p>Cr Toms said it was fantastic news the draft was completed and congratulated staff on a good job.</p> <p>Jason Kingsley – Acknowledge staff for level of extraordinary level of consultation and working with committee on the project. Feedback has been constructive – commended staff member, Erin, on the work she did.</p> <p>Cr Toms – Discussed the value of Council having a position focused on aging and disability. It's not this committee's role to recommend staff positions, but wanted to have it noted that this is an important role. A community officer is one of the most important ones. Wanted to find out if the position was ongoing.</p>	<p>Action - Once on public exhibition, email draft DIAP to committee members for feedback. EB</p> <p>Clarify if Aging and Access Officer roles still exists. EB</p>	
6.05 International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD)	<p>Council is keen to work with Social Futures and committee on a project to celebrate the day. Council has some funding to support an event.</p> <p>Jason Kinglsey – In the past Council has done things to celebrate the day but events were not inclusive of whole community. Social Futures had a social</p>	<p>Update committee on how it can support this event at next meeting.</p>	

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	<p>inclusion day. But nothing really happened last couple of years.</p> <p>Social Futures will take lead if need be. Jason Kingsley has a friend – tennis Olympian – runs an inclusive wheelchair program through schools.</p> <p>Talked about a day that celebrates social inclusion week and IDPwD and have inclusive event. Getting organisations together in one place – all organisations bring activity to the day. Include schools, businesspeople, councillors – play wheelchair basketball/tennis.</p> <p>Suggested dates: Thursday 30 November or Friday 1 Dec. Looking at PCYC.</p> <p>Need to form a working group of partners to make this happen.</p> <p>Angela Berry – Could there be live music to create a mood? Committee talked about this being a great idea.</p> <p>Jason – Welcome to Country and music.</p> <p>Cr Toms – Be good to see this day celebrated.</p> <p>Access Committee supports the idea.</p>		
6.06 Memorial Park Toilets	<p>When new plans are received, they'll come to Access Committee for feedback.</p>		

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6.07	Maclean Sports Centre/playground Accessible Carpark	Carpark marking to be installed in the next week or two.	Provide photo of installed carpark. AB	
6.08	Grafton Waterfront	<p>Jason Kingsley– visited the newly opened waterfront section and said it was really good, really busy and well used. Good pathways and accessible. But raised a safety concern.</p> <p>At the top, there's the covered seating area. The top terraced seating curved concrete area – advised Council consider retrospectively installing a barrier there to stop mobility scooter/wheelchair/vision impaired person going over the edge. Could put lip where concrete join is – to prevent people going over.</p> <p>It was noted this could become a trip hazard or concern for vision impaired.</p> <p>Dave Moran – Colour contrast works well. Has found the big rocks placed on concrete – a barrier for vision impaired. Noted Lack of TGSIs.</p>	<p>Jason Kingsley to take some photos.</p> <p>Cr Pickering to send link to NBN news speaking about accessible paths in new Grafton waterfront project.</p>	
6.09	Connect You Too	Informed committee spoke at cancelled meeting in July.		
6.10	Guest speaker- Bern Walker, Accessible Beaches	<p>Notes taken from presentation: Accessibility is a journey. You have to start somewhere. To hear your discussions is fantastic. We are all about</p>	<p>Action – send Bern Walker contact details to Angela Berry and Jason Kingsley. EB</p> <p>- Send recorded video of</p>	<p>Motion: Jason Kingsley: That the Clarence Valley</p>

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	<p>taking the steps and starting somewhere. Aged and Disability is a vital position. Community engagement is key to success to accessibility.</p> <p>Slide show notes:</p> <p>Est. 2016. 2020 became a registered charity. Advocates for beaches to become accessible. Run an online directory of accessible beaches and waterways around Australia. Do beach audits. Leading authority on beach access in Australia. Coming from a place of lived experience.</p> <p>You don't need all components to be accessible – you just have to start somewhere.</p> <p>Accessible parking – have multiple available. Wide clear pathways</p> <p>Accessible bathrooms or Changing Places (CP) facilities. CP is the pinnacle and superior to universally designed bathrooms. They have a hoist. 40% of people with disability can't use bathroom in vertical position.</p> <p>Direct beach access from pathways.</p> <p>Beach matting to the water's edge. Not always viable.</p> <p>Beach wheelchairs are fantastic. Floating chair is life changing for some people.</p>	<p>presentation to Access Committee members and Open Spaces staff. EB</p>	<p>Access Committee advise Council to engage Accessible Beaches to conduct audit on Yamba Main Beach, Minnie Water and Turners and identify any other beaches that may be suitable, in addition.</p> <p>Cr Pickering – second.</p>

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	<p>Compliant ramps inc. guard rail esp. for aging people.</p> <p>Access to shade and fresh water – many PWD can't regulate their body temperature. Enables them to have a day at the beach, rather than a few hours. A day at the beach is what we all should be able to experience.</p> <p>Accessible to public transport.</p> <p>Access to food.</p> <p>It's not always about getting to the water. It's about reducing social isolation. People just want to be included in life.</p> <p>Access to blue spaces improves mental health and increases likelihood of physical exercise.</p> <p>Feedback – not providing access for all leaves people feeling not valued.</p> <p>Key to success – commitment to inclusion and accessibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong working relationships between Council and Life Saving Clubs - Strong community engagement - Training and education. Break down the barriers – provide training and experience to give 		

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	<p>people practical advice to work with PWD. It shows the community you have this commitment.</p> <p>Cr Karen Toms – explain around 40% of PWD not being able to go to toilet. Bern Walker - they need the sling to go in a horizontal position. Cr Toms - Treelands – could we make this 24/7 accessible access.</p> <p>Bern Walker – adult change table is also required. You think about the planning that needs to go into the lives of people who need adult change facilities.</p> <p>Cr Pickering – how would we get an audit? Bern Wlaker - Accessible Beaches offers the services – extensive review of all existing accessible features – get a detailed report of what's existing and recommended steps to take. Provides basis for project plan and funding. Helps with grant applications. And bundle in training. Approx. \$3k.</p> <p>Jason Kinglsey – Has lived experience 30 years. There has been a bit of a change – we have some councillors and a proactive committee and vocal community, driving this. Everything you said I agree with everything. It's not just for people who want to get into the</p>		

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	<p>water. I grew up on the beach, surfing. As a parent – all I want to do is get on the beach and I did it a few times and got stuck in the sand. Now go to Gold Coast and seek beaches elsewhere to get onto the beach. Need to have plans in place for funding. Putting up barriers is no longer acceptable. The economic flow on effect for local areas and businesses is hard to fathom. With NDIS – if you can't holiday in the Clarence Valley you're spending that money elsewhere. We have 90km of the most pristine beaches you'll ever see and none of that is accessible so people go elsewhere.</p> <p>Bern Walker – once you do – people in disability community will spread it. Jason – there is what I call the disability grapevine. Gold Coast has tapped into that.</p> <p>Bern Walker – with Olympics Game coming to Brisbane – need to promote that. It's such a great opportunity to take advantage of.</p> <p>Cr Karen Toms – This is the key to helping us move forward.</p> <p>Angela Berry – has a report on what access isn't available already. Will provide details to Bern Walker.</p>		

Item	Description/Discussion/ Comments	Action	Recommendation
7	General Business		

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7.01	Bailey Park, Ulmarra	<p>Jason Kinglsey Went to Bailey Park recently. Wheelchairs can now get into water feature via ramp. It's great.</p> <p>The tables are accessible. Would like to see a sticker put on the round to mark it out. Idea from daughter, Caitin, when they did site visit.</p>	Action - Pass suggestion on to Open Spaces/ Strategic Infrastructure.	
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7.02	Accessible swing attachment	<p>Angela Berry – sent a photo of an accessible swing attachment to council a few months ago. Hasn't had feedback. There are three children living in Townsend in wheelchairs. It's just changing a pommel . There are two swings there. Could we find out if funding for the swing was sourced externally, the attachment could be fitted by council?</p> <p>Some parks are accessible but limited to what a child with disability can do. This swing is not going to work on everything but worth investigating.</p> <p>Jason Kinglsey and Cr Karen Toms asked if the Playground policy V1.0 on Council's website was the correct one. They believed it had been updated.</p>	<p>ACTION: Could staff investigate the possibility to retrofit one of Townsend Playground flying fox swings to include an accessible swing and report back to council. Also if it was funded externally could/would council install it.</p> <p>Action – Check if the Playground policy V1.0 on the website is the correct one.</p>	
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7.03			
8	Correspondence	n/a	
9	DAs for Consultation	n/a	
10	Next Meeting		
	Chair: Cr Toms		
	Date / Time: September, 20 2023	Minutes: EB	Location: Grafton Chambers
11	Meeting close	12:51pm	

K. Toms.

20 September 2023