

**Clarence Valley Access Committee  
Held in the Grafton Chambers and via Teams  
On Wednesday 15 March 202 at 11am – 1pm  
Minutes**

**Attendance:**

**Chair:** Cr Karen Toms

**Minute Taker:** Erin Brady (CVC)

**Attendees:** Cr Karen Toms, Laura Smith-Khan, Dave Moran, Jason Kingsley, Andrew Auglys (CVC), Justin Putze (CVC), Erin Brady (CVC). Online via Teams: Vanette McLennan, Zoe Goodsell, Alana Brooks (Road Safety Officer CVC), Elliot Fishman (Institute of Sensible Transport).

**Apologies:** Jennifer O'Brien, Jody O'Brien, Cr Steve Pickering, Stephen Timms.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMNT TO COUNTRY** by

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><b>Minutes previous meeting –</b> Moved: Laura Smith-Khan Second: Dave Moran</p> <p><b>Previous Business:</b></p>	<p><b>EOI/Invitation to recruit new CV Access Committee member</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussed advisory handbook guidelines for appointing new members to committee. Because of the short term left of the committee it was decided an</li> </ul>	

	<p>EOI would take too much time to process, so appointment by invitation was decided as appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Motion: Invite Angela Berry of Yamba to join access committee.</li> </ul> <p>Moved: Laura Smith-Khan  Second: Dave Moran  6 in favour. Committee unanimous.</p>	<p>Erin Brady to action new membership procedure.</p>
	<p><b>Change accessible carparks:</b></p> <p><b>MacNaughton Place, Maclean</b> - Alana Brooks – space needs to be larger to be complaint. Will need more time to review</p> <p><b>Memorial Park, Grafton</b> – Alana Brooks - hard to review existing space currently with works and fencing in place. Will review when accessible.</p> <p><b>Prince Street</b> – Alana Brooks – will arrange Teams meetings or in person meeting with Jason Kingsley to discuss.</p>	<p>Alana Brooks to review and report back to committee once reviewed.</p>
	<p><b>Access at a Glance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grafton Library is being inspected March 23.</li> <li>- No stickers up yet at CVC.</li> </ul>	<p>Erin Brady follow up when stickers will be applied to entrances at Maclean, Grafton and Rushforth offices.</p>
	<p><b>Pippi Beach and Turners Beach Access</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Andrew Auglys – council is looking at plans and costings for Turners Beach access.</li> <li>- Pippi Beach toilet access – reviewing costings and budgets.</li> <li>- Cr Toms asked about the finalisation of William Ager Park path and changes from original design.</li> <li>- Alana Brooks - council looking at having another path from Clarence Street going to William Ager viewing platform.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Andrew Auglys – looking at improving William Ager Park playground and new path will pick that up. Funding to replace shelters in the park too.</li> <li>- Cr Karon Toms- Can we please ensure new tables in the shelters are accessible for wheelchairs. Andrew Auglys confirmed they will be.</li> <li>- Jason Kingsley – 3 beaches that lend themselves to greatest level of compliant ramp access are Turners Beach, Main Beach, and Minnie Water. There is probably some room to upgrade the road at Minnie Water. Could this be a low-cost option for accessible beach access?</li> <li>- Andrew Auglys – Main Beach – weather has held up work around Main Beach including the red alert of hill. Minnie Water – can look into it. Some beaches have challenges - some more than other.</li> <li>- Jason Kingsley – offered to take Andrew Auglys out to look at Minnie Water to show him some easy wins council could have improving accessibility. Points raised: We need more master plans so then we can apply for grants. And there is a push for accessible tourism. We’ve got to move forward. We have to be more progressive.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Footpath trading Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hoping to get draft policy to committee in the next two weeks to review before next meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>Stephen Timms to attend next meeting to receive feedback on draft policy and also get feedback on Prince Street trial.</p>
	<p><b>DIAP – engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Erin brady updated committee on progress of DIAP consultation and invited access committee to complete a survey and promote.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>See Park / Caringa accessible play equipment donation</b></p>	<p>Defer to next meeting</p>
	<p><b>Clarence Valley Cultural and Community Precinct design</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Justin Putze - Designers still working on inclusion of feedback provided including a switchback from level surface of hall to the stage. Also looking at solutions to get accessible access from pit space to stage. All with designers –</li> </ul>	<p>Justin Putze to show current plans to Jason Kingsley.</p>

	<p>will bring solutions back to access committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Justin Putze - Received feedback from Heritage Committee and will work through list to integrate into design. Council looking to submit DA by end of month. DA will have 50% detail/drawings. Justin assured the Access Committee they'd see finalised designs well before breaking ground.</li> <li>- Cr Karen Toms– wanted to clarify that the Access Committee won't see updated designs with committee's access recommendations in it until after DA submitted. Justin confirmed.</li> <li>• Jason Kingsley – What's the contingency budget for the construction. Cr Toms took question on notice.</li> <li>• Jason Kingsley: Should there be significant changes required, and it does get held up by Council, and there's an additional amount required to change, it will delay the project. What's that going to do to the project long term as far as delivery and cost? Justin said he has asked the question.</li> <li>• Justin Putze: It's around what we may have to forgo to create what we need. This committee is a lever to enable leverage to ensure we get desired outcome.</li> <li>• Justin Putze – confirmed access onto stage via ramp from hall – we should be able to do it on budget.</li> <li>• Cr Karen Toms –We're seeking if someone's in audience in wheelchair-they don't have to go outside. We want them to stay in the auditorium and access the stage like every able body person.</li> <li>• Justin Putze – No one will have to leave the auditorium to get to the stage. in the audience area there will be a bridge/ramp inside auditorium along the right side to take PWD onto stage. There will be a ramp outside the hall (but inside the building) into the pit space. Now seeking solution of how to enable someone to go from pit space onto stage without having to leave the hall. Currently investigating a platform lift from pit that can lift a range of options – eg moving people (all abilities) and equipment up to stage.</li> <li>• Cr Karen Toms – ok with changes.</li> </ul>	<p>Justin to attempt to get updated plans to Access Committee before DA goes to Council.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoe Goodsell – that explanation clears it up for me.</li> <li>• Vanette McLennan – happy with clarification that ramp will be internal.</li> <li>• Jason Kingsley– ok with what Justin is proposing but having not seen the design – not happy with it until he’s seen the plans. Jason said Council should be starting from a foundation of accessibility and DDA compliance and work forward from there. Cost doesn’t come into it. Asked if there was opportunity to have a look at design so he can see and get a handle on it. Justin said yes.</li> <li>• Laura Smith-Khan – sounds good.</li> <li>• Cr Toms – Asked Justin to send out revised plan to all access committee members prior to business paper.</li> <li>• Justin Putze – hoping to see revised design and will send through as soon as he gets it.</li> <li>• Access committee is still to approve the design.</li> <li>• Committee appreciates staff’s advocacy for committee advice.</li> </ul>	
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiet Hour at Maclean Service Centre</li> <li>• Leave Nobody Behind Webinar</li> <li>• Main Beach Zig Zag path- email asking for clarification on step at bottom of Zig Zag path. Alana Brooks said Council has scheduled works in April to remedy this.</li> </ul>	Erin to send out webinar link
DAs for Consultation	NIL	
General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yamba Surf Life Saving letter of support – Access Committee agreed to show its support for the grant application the club was hoping to submit to make the surf club more accessible and up to DDA compliance.</li> </ul>	Erin Brady to talk to club about CVC providing a letter of support for the grant application including a reference to CV Access Committee supporting the club’s goal to make the building more accessible.

<p>Guest Speaker –</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active Transport Strategy update: Elliot Fishman, Consultant 11:45pm – 12midday</li> <li>• Gave update on project and asked committee what are the barriers for moving around CV?</li> <li>• Walking and cycling – have run workshop with councillors, pop up engagement, team in CV doing detailed site assessments of footpath networks. Done data analysis and assessed network onsite and online. CV supportive of living active healthy lives with active transport available to all.</li> <li>• Asked the question: What are the barriers preventing people moving around freely in the CV?</li> <li>• Laura Smith-Khan – from perspective of living in Maclean using pram – no footpath running to connect us with Wherrett Park. People have to use the road to move. Unsafe with little kids. Also there’s a throughway where people walk through grassy area to get to Wherrett Park quicker. Council stopped mowing it. More paths and getting to school with pram. Lack of consistent pathways.</li> <li>• Vanette McLennan – similar comments about Yamba in terms of footpath and bike access. There are some areas with no paths and then paths end abruptly with no accessible access off them. And around Yamba Public School there are some missing links.</li> <li>• Zoe Goodsell – along Dobie Street the path ends abruptly. Broke leg there running.</li> <li>• Jason Kingsley – gutter ramps – with old and new developments. Would like to see an audit of footpath network to see where compliant gutter ramps are installed. Would like to see all conditions of DA’s that all driveways and footpaths have 1 in 8 gutter ramp-type access.</li> <li>• Elliot: Is the lip of gutter ramps too high? Jason – would have to check specific gutter ramps but yes, some lips can be a safety risk in wheelchair.</li> </ul>	<p>Action: Committee to look at Active Transport Strategy website, have a say and contact Alana if they have any ideas or want to discuss further.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dave Moran – legally blind so safety point of view. Pedestrian crossings – in Grafton near Victoria Street. GBH crossing is also dangerous. No way to get from southern side to northern side in Arthur Street, especially on buses. With cars getting quieter (EVs) it’s quite scary getting across. Also footpaths that disappear – if you don’t know where you’re going, you don’t know what to do.</li> <li>• Dave Moran – Prince Street upgrade is so much easier and safer for me, with nose-in parking. And another positive – disabled parking outside the hospital is a wonderful set up. Something like that in Prince Street with a number of designated disabled parking, so people don’t have to go looking for it.</li> <li>• Elliot – Also asked committee what things they’d like to see in different towns to make it better for everybody.</li> <li>• Cr Toms – Access ramps to beaches. Ramps to accessible toilets- eg Pippi Beach toilet. Turners Beach is not accessible – ramp too steep.</li> <li>• Parking right at end of pathway.</li> <li>• Vanette McLennan – likes the website - user friendly</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>General business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dave Moran – should we invite Community Transport along one day to advise us what they do. Committee agreed it was a good idea.</li> <li>- Zoe Goodsell – At a mothers group this week they discussed the trial in Prince Street. Concerns accessing prams from the rear of car was a safety concern. Alana Brooks – A buffer space has been included in the design for this purpose. However, if it moves to permanent parking, the carparks are too narrow. This will need to be considered.</li> <li>- Zoe Goodsell – access from parking at Jacaranda Park and See Park. If you miss out on a carpark – you have to park on grass. Uneven and unstable if it’s wet. Anyone with wheels would have difficulty in that space.</li> </ul>	<p>Dave Moran to work with Erin Brady to invite Community Transport along to a meeting.</p> <p>Add Prince Street parking at to agenda. EB</p> <p>Speak to GM re sending card to Bevan’s family. EB</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jason Kingsley – asked to include Zoe’s concerns as agenda item in future meetings and endorse Zoe’s comments re Prince street parking. Safety risk needs to be addressed.</li> <li>- Jason Kingsley – move motion that committee commend consultation process to date for DIAP and than staff for their work.</li> <li>- Jason – move condolence motion for Bevan. Asked GM if they would send a handwritten card to family expressing our appreciation for that person for their commitment to committee and his service.</li> </ul>	
<b>Meeting closed</b>	12:34pm	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	Wednesday 19 April 2023, 11am – 1pm, Maclean Council Chambers	

28 March 2023  
Cr Karen toms, Chair

