

Minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Committee Meeting held Tuesday 27 September 2022

Venue: Harvard Room, Tweed Heads Administration Office and Blue Jeans Virtual Meeting

Time: 10.00am

Present:

Karen Sculley (Chair), Kyle Sculley, Wendy Buckingham, Vanessa Riggs, Pat Miller, Lisa Rae (Community Representatives), Cr Meredith Dennis, Helen Carter, Giselle Benitez Hetherington, Lily Morgan, Sandra Freeman (Tweed Shire Council).

Apologies:

Colin Usher, Suzanne Hudson (Community Representatives), Stewart Brawley, Robert Noakes, Cr James Owen, Iain Lonsdale (Tweed Shire Council).

Guests:

Leah Burgess, Viv Wright (Tweed Shire Council).

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

It was noted that Minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday 20 July 2022 were to be tabled for Council to consider endorsing at meeting in August 2022.

Open and Acknowledgment of Country

Agenda Items:

A1. Introduction and apologies

Giselle welcomed the members and accepted apologies.

A2. Administration

1. Confirmation of agenda items.

Giselle invited members to contribute any additional items, none were tabled.

2. Previous minutes and actions.

Giselle noted the minutes from previous meeting in August were yet to be tabled for Council's consideration and would aim to table at first available meeting.

A3. Induction of Community Representatives – Viv Wright, Corporate Governance

1. Code of Conduct requirements

Viv provided an overview and requested that members sign and return this to her or Giselle.

Action: *Community members to sign and return the Code of Conduct form.*

2. Committee Terms of Reference

Giselle provided an overview of the terms including the purpose, function and exclusions for the role of members and the Committee.

Members were asked to note the minimum quarterly meeting program and consider and advise at the next meeting their interest and capacity to meet more often and/or work between meetings if they wished to. The next meeting would also table the Chair election and members were asked to consider the role and their interest to nominate themselves or another member.

Action: *Members to advise at next meeting their preferred meeting schedule and interest to nominate for Chair.*

A3. Access and Inclusion program and current projects

1. Draft Tweed Access and Inclusion Plan 2022 – 2026

Giselle gave an update on the development of the new Tweed Access and Inclusion Plan (Council's Disability Action Inclusion Plan (DIAP)), including:

- The recent amendment to the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014, which extends the timeframe for all NSW Councils to make a new DIAP to 30 November 2023.
- Revised guidelines are expected in October about community engagement requirements.

2. International Day of People with Disability (Saturday 3 December 2022) celebration event

Giselle discussed the event planning underway and tabled options for members to give consider and provide feedback, including:

- Choice of date based on available venue, with members preferring a combination outdoor/indoor event at Kingscliff Community Hall and Rowan Robinson Park on Saturday 3 December – noting the potential risk in case of poor weather. This would offer a more prominent and inclusive of the general public on the date to be observed and allow more festive activities in an open arena as Covid is still a concern in this community.
- The local disability support network has been invited to express an interest to participate. Members suggested sector involvement should focus on adding to the festivities, rather than promoting their own services (not an expo).
- Members also suggested inviting prominent advocates and community leaders as guest speakers, if this suited the format. Kyle Sculley offered to speak as well.
- Members raised their interest in planning early in 2023 for a more formal occasion in a suitable location for next year's event.

Action: *Giselle will confirm the event to be held at Kingscliff and keep members informed as planning progresses, table at next meeting.*

3. Reconnecting Regional NSW – 13 community events

Giselle informed members about this program of public events commencing September to March 2023, funded by NSW Government.

Of the funding that Council secured for the Reconnecting Regional NSW Community Events Program, a proportion was specifically allocated to engage an access and inclusion resource (ie. access consultant) to provide:

- accessible event training (group training)
- one-on-one event-specific review (ie. consultation)
- funding to support temporary access and inclusion measures (eg. accessible toilets, matting etc.) across all of the 13 events.

4. Accessibility parking and pathways - Lily Morgan

Council's Road Safety Officer is keen to work with the Committee to improve access and safety in key areas of the Tweed including parking and footpaths. The Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan and Bike Plan are key projects also underway.

5. Communications and social media promotions – Leah Burgess

Giselle gave an overview of the role of the EAAC to promote awareness and positive behaviours and attitudes in community, as per the DIAP. Giselle and Leah Burgess will work with the EAAC to explore and develop promotions and campaigns on important projects and issues in community. This may include positive stories and personal experiences through social media posts which have a strong following. This program can also be informed by the 2021-22 community survey feedback.

Members raised the issue of poor use of accessible toilets or inappropriate use of accessible parking by people who do not have a disability and asked to ensure the International Day of People with Disability was well-promoted before and after the event.

6. Variety Activate Inclusion Sports Day 9 November 2022 from 10am to 1pm

This event is being hosted by the NSW Office of Sport at the Tweed PCYC for children aged 5 to 18 years. The Mayor and Councillors have been invited and members are also. Note the event clashes with the tentative EAAC meeting date for November.

Action: Members to advise if they wish to attend the event and reschedule the EAAC meeting.

7. Goorimahbah Inclusive Park and Playspace Wayfinding and Signage

Giselle gave an update on the Inclusive Park and Playspace project that is under construction and scheduled to open in December 2022. Giselle and Jodie Hewett, Recreation Planner are working with DotDash Wayfinding consultants to develop wayfinding and signage information system for all patrons to use and navigate the playspace as well as the wider Jack Evans Boat Harbour. The project involves reviewing visual signage standards, font/typeface and colours, tactile indicators, braille and other alternative and augmentative communication systems. Members were asked to note that if any feedback from the Committee is requested or invited, it is likely to be between meetings, given the tight timeframe before opening.

8. Pottsville Masterplan and Burringbar Memorial Reserve and Masterson Park Plan

Giselle gave brief project update on behalf of Tarra Martel from Parks and Active Communities Unit. This project is commencing and likely to involve the EAAC in early 2023. Tarra is available to present at the next Committee meeting to discuss the development of

the draft concept design, community engagement strategy, and once adopted by Council, program to seek grants funding to implement.

9. Northern Rivers Rail Trail

Iain Lonsdale requested to report findings of recent access audits by Tracey Barrell OAM to an upcoming committee meeting.

Action: *Iain Lonsdale to report findings of recent access audits by Tracey Barrell OAM to an upcoming EAAC meeting.*

A4. Discussion of committee priorities

Members strongly supported hosting meetings more often than quarterly, suggested every second month in order to work through the full program.

Action: *Giselle to contact others to determine occurrence of EAAC meetings.*

Action: *Giselle to produce a schedule for projects that are happening in the next 12 months.*

The meeting closed at 11.55am.

Next Meeting – Wednesday 9 November 2022 (tbc)

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:

Nil.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Nil.