

## Minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Committee Meeting held Wednesday 8 December 2021

### Venue:

Kingscliff Community Hall

### Time:

10.55am

### Present:

Karen Sculley (Chair), Suzanne Hudson (Deputy Chair), Kyle Sculley, Wendy Buckingham (Community Representatives), Helen Carter, Giselle Benitez Hetherington, Gabby Arthur (Tweed Shire Council).

### Apologies:

Vanessa Riggs, Colin Usher, Tarhnee Wilson (Community Representative); Stewart Brawley, Robert Noakes, Ray Clark (Tweed Shire Council)

### Minutes of Previous Meeting:

It was noted that Minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday 10 November 2021 have not yet been endorsed by Council.

### Agenda Items:

#### Welcome, Introduction and Acknowledgement of Country

Karen welcomed the members and opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country.

#### A1. Administration

Giselle advised that Tracey Stinson has resigned from her position of Director Sustainable Communities & Environment. Stewart Brawley will be acting in the role until recruitment is completed.

#### A2. Access and Inclusion Awards 2022

The Access and Inclusion Awards will be discussed at an early Committee meeting in 2022. There may be an opportunity to mention the Awards at the Tweed Business Chamber breakfast on 14 December to gauge interest. It was noted that there are still concerns about unknown effects of the pandemic in 2022.

#### A3. Council elections

The Local Government elections were held on 4 December 2021. The different voting options and suitability for people with disability were discussed. The new I-Vote system crashed which caused some issues. People with disability are able to vote over the phone however they need to call the Electoral Commission and register to vote by this method.

#### A4. Access and Inclusion Plan Survey

The Access and Inclusion Plan Survey was launched on 26 November 2021. On 30 November 2021, Giselle presented to the Tweed chapter of Blind Citizens Australia and received positive feedback. In the past 2 weeks, 25 responses have been received through

Council's Your Say Tweed online survey. The Easy Read version of the survey is currently being distributed to community groups.

## **A5. International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD) Videos**

The IDPWD videos have been viewed 92 times through Council's website since publishing 1 week prior. The videos were also promoted through social media and Tweed Link. Giselle will look to get social media statistics. Karen advised she has received positive feedback and acknowledged Council's support.

The "People with disability" webpage on Council's website is being updated to make it clearer and easier to navigate, since the 3 videos are embedded there. The IDPWD event is also being added to the Home webpage under the "News" section with a link to the videos. Giselle will share the link with the EAAC once the update is completed.

The next article will be published in this week's Tweed Link highlighting the IDPWD event held at Brett Street Café.

The EAAC were encouraged to share the information of the videos, surveys and committee with anyone in the community who would like to get involved.

The 3 videos were shown at the meeting with very positive feedback from the committee. The members advised they were proud to be involved in the project. The videos will raise awareness in the community and will continue to be shown into the future. If time permits, 2 of the videos will be shown at the Business Chamber breakfast on 14 December.

**Action:** *Giselle to share with the EAAC the link to the disability section of Council's website along with the viewing statistics of the IDPWD videos on social media.*

## **A6. Tweed Transport Plan - Workshop**

Giselle provided an update on the Tweed Transport Plan Workshops, which were attended by many Council officers. Transport for NSW appreciated the feedback and issues raised by the EAAC. Giselle noted that the same issues were raised across the community. Transport for NSW (TfNSW) has a Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) which contains some great strategies that TfNSW could implement.

## **A7. Overview of 2021**

Giselle thanked the EAAC for their time, guidance and significant contribution during 2021 on projects including:

- Meeting with the Hon Gareth Ward MP, Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services and the Hon Geoff Provest MP, Member for Tweed on 2 February 2021
- Formal induction of EAAC members to Council policies, processes and operations
- Input to the concept design for Goorimahbah Place of Stories – Inclusive Park and Playspace
- Easy English documentation for the public exhibition of Goorimahbah Place of Stories – Inclusive Park and Playspace
- Easy English documentation for Access and Inclusion Plan
- Input to Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) and Bike Plan consultation
- Input and User Acceptance Testing of Council's new website
- Adjusted to online meeting format during lockdown periods

- Input into Norries Headland Masterplan consultation
- Input into Tweed Transport Plan consultation
- Leadership in the creation of three videos to promote awareness of International Day of People with Disability, Access and Inclusion in the Tweed.

## **A8. Focus and Priorities for 2022**

The next EAAC meeting will be aim to be held in February and will be an opportunity to regroup and discuss the year ahead. In 2022, the meetings will return to a bi-monthly format. Following the induction of the new councillors, and completion of the review of the Committees of Council, Expressions of Interest to represent the Committee will be extended to the public. The membership of the EAAC will include a councillor representative.

The EAAC's 2022 project focus is likely to be on the following:

- Tweed Access and Inclusion Plan Survey responses received and analysed
- Drafting of Tweed Access and Inclusion Plan and Actions
- Inclusive Wayfinding and signage study. This item has been escalated for the Goorimahbah Place of Stories project, as funding has been received and deadlines for mid-2022 are to be met. Foreshore access improvement Study. This item will commence following the inclusive wayfinding project.
- Access and Inclusion Awards, where a review of feasibility, risks and capacity will be needed.

## **General Business:**

GB1. The EAAC sincerely thanked Giselle for her commitment and leadership during 2022.

## **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Equal Access Advisory Committee will aim to be held Wednesday 9 February 2022, subject to Councillor Induction and Community Services programming (tbc).

The meeting closed at 12.00pm.

## **EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:**

## **EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:**