

Minutes

Minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Committee Meeting held Wednesday 10 November 2021

Venue:

Harvard Room & Virtual Meeting

Time:

10.05am

Present:

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

Guest:

Luke Homann (Transport for NSW).

Apologies:

Vanessa Riggs (Community Representative), Robert Noakes, Cr Warren Polglase, Tracey Stinson (Tweed Shire Council)

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

It was noted that Minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday 8 September 2021 were endorsed by Council at its meeting on 28 October 2021.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

It was noted that the Minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Committee meeting held Wednesday 13 October 2021 have not yet been endorsed by Council. The EAAC to provide any comments or feedback to Giselle.

Agenda Items:

A1. Welcome, Introduction and Acknowledgement of Country

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

A2. Outstanding Matters

(a) International Day of People with Disability campaign

Filming of the International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD) campaign will take place following the meeting. The videos will then be prepared and during IDPWD week, a different story will be released through Council's website and social media channels.

Council's Community Care section is tentatively planning a small event on 3 December 2021 with members of the disability sector and community care networks at the Brett Street Café and all EAAC members are invited to attend. The EAAC members will receive invitations shortly.

(b) Tweed Access and Inclusion Plan Community Survey Launch

Three versions of the Tweed Access and Inclusion Plan community survey are being prepared; an easy read version, screen-reader version and online Your Say Tweed page version. The survey will be promoted through social media, media release and Tweed Link, and to the disability sector, care networks and community centres. The survey will be launched on 26 November 2021 for an extended period of 8 weeks due to the Christmas and New Year period. It will be important to also link with Tweed Tourism and other tourism providers to encourage visitors to the area to complete the survey. Giselle has been invited to present the survey to the Blind Citizens Australia Tweed chapter and Tweed Business Chamber and she is happy to engage with any other community groups.

Thank you to Susi and Tarhnee for supporting Giselle to prepare a dedicated screen reader version which is still a work-in-progress.

Giselle sought feedback from the EAAC on the 'hero' images to promote the survey. 3 stock images of people with disabilities were shown, described and discussed with members. Members expressed their preference to have 3 photographs of themselves (EAAC members) as genuine and local representatives as people with disability, participating in all types of activities in the community.

Giselle showed the same 3 images using the overlay of Council's river device branding as set out in Council's style guidelines. The EAAC feedback was that the images were not easy to see, due to the lines and patches created and that people with vision impairment, autism or dementia, would find it disorientating and confusing. Colin noted that the linear pattern overlays and breaks up the images of people with disability, and may trigger sensitivities about being seen to be in the background, as many feel this way in the community. Members preferred there to be no river branding overlaid across the images, and suggested that this device could be used as a border or trim at the bottom of the images instead.

A2. Bereavement acknowledgement of Ms Milena Morrow

The recent passing of Milena Morrow was acknowledged by the EAAC members. Milena served on the EAAC for 16 years from 2004 to 2020, including as Chairperson for 3 terms. She was instrumental in assisting Council to develop its first and second Access and Inclusion Plans. Milena was highly regarded by fellow members and in the Tweed community as a strong advocate for people with disabilities and an accomplished author. Council has expressed its sympathies to Milena's family and the community. Members shared their personal memories and acknowledged Council's acknowledgement of bereavement.

A3. Tweed Transport Plan Update (Luke Homann - Transport for NSW)

Luke presented a PowerPoint of the Tweed Transport Plan being developed by Transport for NSW (TfNSW).

The Tweed Transport Plan will provide the future blueprint for the next 20 years transforming how people and goods move through the Tweed. The objectives and outputs are set and the key initiatives are being developed, with a Council workshop scheduled to meet late November 2021. Luke requested that Giselle attend the workshop to represent the needs of the EAAC.

Question and issues raised by the EAAC:

- Request to focus on connecting the community back to Sydney and NSW, as well as South-East Queensland. It is important there be a connection with the railway back to Sydney. Luke advised that connection back into the regional area is a key consideration.
- Request for light rail travelling south to connect to heavy railway at Casino. A lot of people in the area don't drive and the bus trip from Casino to Tweed Heads is challenging and not suitable for people with disabilities, due to the travel timetable, length of the trip and lack of accessible buses and facilities. Luke advised that a number of options as to how far the light rail extends are part of the study.
- What is the scope of the Plan, for example, will it include pedestrian traffic? Is there a state-wide guideline or policy regarding grade of footpaths? Luke advised key considerations include operation and maintenance of the road network and building of new infrastructure for rural and regional, train and coach services, bus contracts and working with the operators to deliver services, community transport contracts and managing the funding that comes from the commonwealth and state governments. It is also responsible for policy development, ticket pricing, cross border ticketing, integration of services e.g. train to coach/bus/taxi/uber to get to a destination, mobility scooters, walking, bicycles, ferries through to ports and foreshore infrastructure, heavy rail and freight.
- Suzie requested that the information be in an accessible format and made available with sufficient lead time.

Luke asked that Giselle capture members' issues and bring them to the workshop. Giselle noted that the workshop is in 3 weeks and requested that the information be provided for the EAAC's consideration and feedback as soon as possible, and offered to discuss accessible information requirements with Luke and his team.

Luke advised that he will ensure the EAAC has the opportunity to feed into the draft Plan and provide comment before it goes on public exhibition.

General Business:

GB1. Next meeting

The final meeting for the year is scheduled for Wednesday 8 December. EAAC members provided positive response to a suggestion to host an informal meeting at Kingscliff Community Hall, providing an opportunity to view and access the foreshore and celebrate the end of year and what has been achieved.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 8 December 2021.

The meeting closed at 11.20am.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS: