

Minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Committee Meeting held Wednesday 11 May 2022

Venue:

Council Chambers Tweed Heads Administration Office and Blue Jeans Virtual Meeting

Time: 10.00am

Present:

Karen Sculley (Chair), Suzanne Hudson (Deputy Chair), Kyle Sculley, Colin Usher (Community Representatives), Cr Meredith Dennis, Helen Carter, Giselle Benitez Hetherington, Robert Noakes, Sandra Freeman (Tweed Shire Council).

Apologies:

Wendy Buckingham, Vanessa Riggs, Tarhnee Wilson (Community Representative); Stewart Brawley, Cr James Owen, Ray Clark (Tweed Shire Council)

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

It was noted that Minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday 8 December 2021 have been endorsed by Council on 17 February 2022.

Agenda Items:

Welcome, Introduction and Acknowledgement of Country

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

Giselle acknowledged and welcomed new Councillor delegates, Cr Meredith Dennis and Cr James Owen (apologies). Cr Dennis gave a brief introduction on her background and experience of ageing and disability matters. Chair, Karen Sculley and Deputy Chair, Suzanne Hudson congratulated Cr Dennis on her election to Council and welcomed her and Cr Owen's appointments to the Committee. Giselle also noted that Cr Polglase was appointed as an alternate Councillor delegate for the current Council term, and acknowledged Cr Polglase's considerable contribution as previous Councillor delegate, serving since May 2017.

A1. Administration

Welcome Sandra Freeman, Community Services' Acting Administration Officer. Sandra has joined our team while Gabby Arthur is on secondment. Sandra will assist the Committee with recording minutes and assisting with meeting logistics.

Action: Giselle to share Sandra's contact details with members.

A2. Advisory Committee Review - update

At Council's meeting 10 May 2022, new Terms of Reference were adopted for several sub-committees of Council including the Equal Access Advisory Committee. Members were invited read the [adopted Terms of Reference via Council's website \[link\]](#). The next step in this review process is for Council call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for all committees.

Action: Giselle to advise members when the EOI is published to Councils website.

A3. Chair election deferred

Members agreed to postpone the election of a Chair and for Karen Sculley and Suzanne Hudson to continue to act in their current roles as Chair and Deputy Chair, respectively.

Moved: Kyle Sculley

Seconded: Colin Usher

A4. Actions of the draft Access and Inclusion Plan 2022

Members discussed the proposed actions for Focus Area 1: Developing positive community attitudes and behaviours and part of Focus Area 2: Liveable and accessible communities. Due to limited time, members agreed to complete their own reviews and provide feedback to Giselle by 20 May 2022, rather than convene another meeting to complete discussions. Following feedback received, Giselle will consult with Council staff before finalising the draft Plan for public exhibition, subject to Council approval.

Action: Giselle to circulate the proposed actions in table and word formats for members to review.

Action: Members to review and provide feedback to Giselle by Friday 20 May 2022.

General Business:

New National Disability Advocacy Framework - consultation

Giselle advised members of the consultation opportunity through the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) on the proposed framework for disability advocacy in Australia. The DSS is inviting Local Government Committees to make joint submissions if they wish. Anyone interested can also make an individual submission as a citizen. The consultation is open until Friday 3 June 2022.

Action: Giselle will circulate the public consultation documents - draft framework document and submission guidelines - for members to review and consider if and how they wish to participate.

Action: Members to advise Giselle and Karen (Chair) by Friday 20 May if they are interested in preparing a joint submission as a Committee.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Equal Access Advisory Committee will aim to be held Wednesday 13 July 2022.

Meeting closed: 12.00pm.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS: