

Minutes

Minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Committee Meeting held Wednesday 13 October 2021

Venue:

Virtual Meeting

Time:

10.20am

Present:

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

Guest:

David Burgener (Recreation Planner, Tweed Shire Council).

Apologies:

Vanessa Riggs (Community Representative); Cr Warren Polglase, Tracey Stinson, Helen Carter (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 will be endorsed by Council at its meeting on 28 October 2021.

Agenda Items:

Welcome, Introduction and Acknowledgement of Country

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

A1. Outstanding Matters

Mental Health awareness campaign with Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP)

Giselle advised that the Coordinator has left the program. Giselle will liaise with her replacement, when available. Council has prepared and published several media pieces with positive messages for community to be kind and understanding of one another. An article in the Tweed Link was published on 25 August 2021 "*Together Tweed Handy List of COVID-19 Support contacts.*" providing phone contacts for COVID-19 vaccination and testing clinics, support helplines and community centres.

Colin advised that the presentation to the Tweed Business Chamber will aim to be held in November meeting. This may present an opportunity to include a mental health message, as business have felt pressure to navigate and interpret the changing rules associated with the COVID-19 re-opening roadmap.

New Access and Inclusion Plan draft community survey

This item has been completed, with appreciation to the EAAC for their input. Giselle will continue to work to launch the survey from November, and will provide an update at the next meeting.

International Day of People with Disability campaign

As agreed, Giselle and Communications staff are arranging a videographer to film EAAC member stories for an online and COVID-19 safe campaign. Giselle suggested that the November meeting may be used to record these stories, but will confirm the details shortly. The stories can link back to highlights or achievements under the Access and Inclusion Plan over the past 4 years. Some ideas discussed included the following:

- Being on the EAAC and participating in Council projects to implement the current Access and Inclusion Plan.
- Recreational activities available for people with disability and of all ages such as Pickle Ball, TRAC therapy pool, Sailability on the Tweed. It was suggested that Tweed Tourism may have information about other activities. *Suzi expressed interest in this story.*
- Partnerships with the support sector, social and community groups.
- Built environment - deliverables or partnerships with businesses. Robert advised that Tweed Heads Bowls Club could be a good example. *Wendy expressed interest in a story about creating and sharing footpaths.* Ray advised that Council is gathering consultation data and feedback on footpath and access issues in the Shire, and will develop a work plan to be delivered as and when funding is secured.
- Accessible information including the Website Improvement Project and Easy Read/English material for the Goorimahbah Inclusive Park and Playspace concept design.
- Meaningful employment including personal experience. Council has Brett Street Café which is a social enterprise which employs people with different abilities. *Tarnhee expressed an interest in employment issues and experiences.*

Giselle asked that members consider if any of these areas resonate with them and advise her, so that these stories can be refined and logistics arranged for early November.

Other celebration activities hosted by the community and disability support sector will be promoted by Council. Suzie suggested promoting Untold Stories, a Tweed Regional Museum online exhibition.

Action: *CDO-Aged & Disability to provide details of Pickle Ball to the EAAC.*

Action: *CDO-Aged & Disability to confirm stories with members and arrange videographer with Communications staff and confirm dates.*

Colin left the meeting at 10.55am

A2. Presentation of Norries Headland draft Masterplan - on exhibition

Presentation by David Burgener and discussion of access features and priorities. Exhibition documents are available on Council's website: *Your Say Tweed*, and whilst closed in the week, David was available to receive feedback from the EAAC.

David provided a project overview to inform the EAAC and facilitate discussion. The TSC Open Space Strategy provides the frame of key issues the project seeks to address – including to maximise the coastal viewing, improve accessibility and connectivity between spaces, to formalise car parking and improve designated accessible parking bays (DAPB) as there currently aren't any at the site, to provide built shading and upgrade the public toilets.

David described the key features of the Norries Headland Master Plan proposal, in particular removing vehicular access in the north of the site, to enable safe and accessible coastal viewing, and formalising car parking in the southern part of the site near Lions Park. Two designated accessible parking bays are proposed, near the new toilets and in the northern most point of the car parking zone. There will be connected pathways from the accessible car parks.

In the northern part of the Site, 2.5m concrete paths and viewing platform with seating and trees for natural shade are proposed, whilst maintaining critical ocean views for everyone. The concrete path will run north to south along the park with branching pathways made from concrete and compressed gravel. It was noted that the path gradient may not meet Access Australian Standards – however, if appropriate signage with this visual and non-visual information (luminous/contrast and/or braille) is provided, then a user or carer can make a judgement about their ability to safely traverse the gradient.

Susie asked whether people can see the ocean from an accessible car space without leaving the car, as it may be difficult for some people with a disability/wheelchair to leave the vehicle? David advised that under the proposal it was unlikely there will be ocean views from the proposed car parking area, and that there are challenges from maintaining (for vehicle viewing) and formalising (for access safety) the car parking in the north area of the site. There are options being explored including extending and creating a turning circle in the new parking zone so a minivan or 12 seater vehicle can turn in the turning radius, and potentially stop for a short time in a loading zone. There are examples of a turning circle / turnaround area at Elizabeth Street, Pottsville and Coral Street at Duranbah. The parking is always full because it is the best view so people park there if they don't want to get out of the car. It should also be noted the current pathway is not accessible for people with a disability or mobility challenges. By making the area open and safe for all, there is a benefit for everyone.

Members agreed there was merit in formalising the car parking in the north to improve safety and access, and acknowledged the benefits and challenges of prioritising the use of the space for people with vehicles. Some people use the space to view the ocean, some people use it to go to the beach or use the park. Timed parking might be a way around managing the parking. Where there is a level path, it is possible to get clients out of the car although it takes time.

The EAAC were asked “would you prefer an informal car park like there is currently, so you can get to the north space but might be difficult to get clients out of the car, or, would you prefer an accessible car park space further south along the space that had a level site and accessible pathway to access the north viewing site?”. The latter was preferred by all.

Minutes

Tarnhee advised of the mental health benefits and positive experience for people to leave their cars and walk or wheel up to the viewing point, particularly after extended lockdowns and self-isolation.

David provided an overview of the amenities, pathways, shelters and playground proposed in the southern end where Lions Park is. Members supported the proposed accessible features and amenities, including bench seating to be placed to the side of the pathway not in the middle, shelters designed with shading and open visibility, and toilets and changing facilities to be more open yet private and accessible.

Members discussed the Norries Headland walkway including the proposed pathway and viewing platforms at the end of the walkway. Members commented on the need for some form of ramps (for part of the way) and railings to assist people on the walkway and to keep people on the walkway. Options like tensioned wire or colour contrast marking at the beginning, middle and end of the walkway for improved wayfinding. David advised there will be steps due to the gradient. Through their experience, the EAAC will be able to provide feedback about what works best for their needs.

The EAAC provided positive feedback on the overall plan.

General Business:

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Equal Access Advisory Committee will be held Wednesday 10 November 2021, as an extraordinary meeting. The agenda will focus on International Day of People with Disability stories, and presentations from Transport for NSW and Rail Trail Project Coordinator.

The meeting closed at 12.00pm.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS: