

# Minutes

## Minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Committee Meeting held Wednesday 15 February 2012

### Venue:

Banora Point Community Centre

### Time:

10.00am

### Present:

Vic Sparks, Una Cowdroy, Bev Kelso, Karen Collins, Cr Dot Holdom, Lee Clark, Milena Morrow (Vice Chair), Cr Phil Youngblutt, Robert Noakes, Ben Dierikx, Trevor Harris

### Apologies:

Ron Douglas (Chair),

### Minutes of Previous Meeting:

**Moved:** Dot Holdom

**Seconded:** Vic Sparks

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Equal Access Committee meeting held Wednesday 14 December 2011 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

### Outstanding Matters Report:

#### Welcome to Ben Dierikx

The Committee welcomed Ben Dierikx to the Equal Access Advisory Committee.

**1. Access and Inclusion Policy and Action Plan** - update provided by Karen Collins that the community consultation phase with end on February 28. On November 14 an online function for community input was established [www.yoursaytweed.com.au/disabilityaccess](http://www.yoursaytweed.com.au/disabilityaccess) Hundreds of people have accessed the site with several making comments and completing surveys. A preview of the analysis from the community consultation will be provided at the April meeting. The next step is to produce issues papers that highlight the matters raised in the community consultation.

#### **2. Draft Festivals and Events Policy**

The Festivals and Events Policy has been modified following feedback from the Committee. Copies will be provided at the April meeting.

**3. Access to bus stop in Kingscliff Street** - relating to an elderly resident with vision impairment being unable to safely walk to the bus stop.

Following actions by the Committee, Trevor Harris (Tweed Shire Council) advised that the owner of the site in question has agreed to remove the sand fill from the demolition work on the site. Tweed Shire Council will put in a temporary footpath until a permanent solution follows development of the site.

#### **4. Access issues at St Joseph's Primary School, Tweed Heads**

This item has been held over until the beginning of the 2012 school year.

**ACTION:** Karen Collins will follow up with a visit to the school and discussions with the principal.

## **5. Flood Safe Brochure**

A letter from the Committee has been prepared to send to the relevant authority requesting that when reprinting the layout conform to the needs of people with vision impairment, namely increasing the contrast on two panels by removing the orange and green background colours.

## **6. Kerb ramps in Wharf Street Tweed Heads**

This item refers to the section of the eastern side of Wharf Street, Tweed Heads between Florence and Frances Streets where there are 46 nose to kerb parking bays with only one kerb ramp at the northern end. There are no accessible parking bays despite there being a number of medical and related businesses in this retail strip. This matter was forwarded to Trevor Harris for action in late 2011. Trevor explained that there were two options. One is to advertise and alert the public to level access parking at the rear of the businesses. The other is to replace a parking bay with a blister and an accessible car parking space on either side with kerb ramp access. Both options require approaches to the business owners to discuss the best way forward. Karen Collins to approach the business and report back to Trevor Harris.

Milena Morrow alerted the Committee to the parking on the opposite side of Wharf Street which also has no kerb ramp access or accessible car spaces from the nose to kerb parking onto the footpath and to the business/retail outlets. It was suggested that rear access possibility be explored.

### **Agenda Items:**

#### **1. Access and Inclusion consultation update**

This standing agenda item will be removed as it is included in the Outstanding Matters Report at each meeting.

#### **2. International Day for People with Disabilities 2011 Update**

Karen Collins presented a proposal to the Committee regarding a partnerships project commencing in 2012 leading up to International Day of People with Disability. The partnerships project will involve collaboration between the Tweed Shire Council, Tweed Disability Interagency, Accessible Arts, arts organisations and artists including those with disabilities and members of the community including people with disabilities. The project aims to foster participation, employment and income generating opportunities in the arts area for people with disabilities. Karen Collins proposed to the Committee that a portion of the Access Committee funds be dedicated to the project. A project proposal with budget will be presented to the Committee at the April meeting for formal recommendation. The Committee gave in principal agreement pending discussion of Project Proposal at the April meeting.

#### **4. Access funds - circulated to members**

#### **5. Access funds - to be circulated to members**

## **General Business**

### **1. Second hand beach wheel chairs**

Brian Lewis from Yabby Industries (constructs new beach wheel chairs for sale) made contact with Karen Collins in late 2011 asking the committee consider donating the parts of the broken beach wheelchair (stored at Coolamon Cultural Centre) to him as he had requests from community members for cheaper equipment. The Committee considered this request but decided that the beach wheel chair parts should be retained by Council as spare parts for the beach wheel chairs currently in operation.

**2. Regional forum for Equal Access Committees, 7 May.** This is an opportunity for members of Access Committees from the northern rivers to meet annually to share experiences and discuss joint projects. Karen Collins tabled the proposed forum agenda. The forum will be held in Casino. Attendance and transport needs were discussed.

### **3. Access issue kerb ramp in Kingscliff**

Una Cowdroy raised the issue of the kerb ramp outside the Commonwealth and Westpac Banks in Kingscliff. The kerb ramp is too steep for motorised wheel chairs with drive wheels in the centre. Motorised wheelchairs get stuck on this ramp because the drive wheel in the centre of chair is raised above the ground by the front and rear wheels when negotiating the ramp. Trevor Harris requested that this matter be forwarded to him for action.

### **4. All Access Playground**

An all access playground site at Coral Street Tweed Heads was approved by Council after a presentation by the Community Services Unit to a Council Workshop on Tuesday 14 February. The next step is to convene a project working group to assist in the development of the playground design.

### **5. Theft of accessible outdoor furniture**

Trevor Harris alerted the committee to the theft in parkland along Keith Compton Drive Tweed Heads. This area has recently been made accessible through work by the Recreation Services Unit. The people responsible needed to put in a considerable effort to remove these items. The Committee agreed that this is extremely disappointing as this park is used extensively by Community Care and aged residential services in the area.

### **6. Kerb ramps at intersection of Empire Lane and Enid Street Tweed Heads**

Trevor Harris informed the Committee that these ramps are now being put in due to the Life Works Church agreeing to move its fence to the boundary line. Previously Telstra fixtures prevented the construction of kerb ramps. Dot Holdom requested a letter of appreciation be sent from the Committee to the Church at the completion of the works.

### **7. Kerb ramps and accessible parking on the western side of Wharf Street**

Milena Morrow

### **8. Equal Access Committee site visits**

Cr Dot Holdom suggested that during the year Committee members might consider doing site visits to see access issues first hand. Karen Collins suggested that some sites could be identified when the preview of the Access and Inclusion consultation is tabled at the April meeting. Committee members agreed with this plan.

# Minutes



**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Equal Access Committee will be held on Wednesday, 18 April 2012 at 10am at Coolamon Cultural Centre, Murwillumbah.

The meeting closed at 11.40am.

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S COMMENTS:**

Nil.

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Nil.