

MINUTES OF THE SHOALHAVEN ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Monday, 20 February 2017
Location: Osprey Training Room, Level 1, City Administrative Building, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 10.00 am

The following members were present:

Clr Annette Alldrick
Clr Nina Cheyne - Chairperson
Ms Jackie Kay
Mr Bill Deaves
Mr Theo Bagou
Ms Nola Stephens
Mr Martin Upitis - Assets Manager (General Manager's Nominee)

Others Present:

Clr Kitchener
Clr White
Melissa Andrews – Community Development Officer
Malcolm Dillon – Building Surveyor Supervisor
Helen Waterhouse - Community Development Officer
Donna Corbyn – Youth Community Development Officer
Coralie Bell – Section Manager, Tourism
Annette Pham
Linda Bate
Natalie Verdon – Briometrix
Kylie Knight – Accessible Icon Project
Mel Montgomery – Accessible Icon Project

Apologies / Leave of Absence

An apology was received from Mel Gorman and Arthur Ball.

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Minutes of the Shoalhaven Access Advisory Committee held on Tuesday 08 November 2016 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

Nil

REPORTS**SAA17.5 Assistance Dogs - Access Issues****HPERM Ref:**
D17/46274

Linda Bate and her assistance dog, Aslan, were welcomed to the meeting.

Linda addressed the Committee advising of instances where she has been challenged, questioned and/or refused entry to some businesses in Nowra with her assistance dog. Linda expressed her concern that this demonstrates a lack of understanding of the laws and obligations of shop owners and workers in relation to assistance dogs.

Linda suggested that stickers could be made available in all shop windows welcoming companion and working dogs (not just guide dogs). Flyers could be handed out to all local shops to help raise awareness.

The Committee discussed the issue.

The Committee agreed that a representative from Guide Dogs be invited to attend the next Nowra CBD Revitalisation Strategy Committee to raise the issue with that Committee. A representative from Guide Dogs also to be invited to the next Shoalhaven Access Advisory Committee meeting to discuss an awareness campaign.

The Committee also discussed access issues for people who use wheelchairs.

Council's Building Surveyor Supervisor, advised that there is no mechanism for councils in New South Wales to enforce accessibility standards, such as installing ramps, retrospectively to older buildings. Councils can only enforce this at the DA stage of new buildings or when an alteration or a renovation requires a DA.

The Committee also discussed organising a "Wheels for a Day" awareness event, where councillors and people with disabilities to demonstrate the challenges of using wheelchairs to shop in the CBD.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That:

1. A representative from Guide Dogs be invited to attend the Nowra CBD Revitalisation Strategy Committee to discuss the issue of raising the awareness of local businesses and the community regarding access for people with disabilities and their working dogs such as assistance dogs and guide dogs.
2. A "Wheels for a Day" awareness event be scheduled for people with disabilities to demonstrate the challenges of using wheelchairs to shop in the CBD. The media also be invited to the event.

CARRIED

SAA17.4 Presentation: Briometrix Mapping Services**HPERM Ref:**
D17/31692

Natalie Verdon addressed the Committee advising that Briometrix is an Australia company who create fitness devices and accessibility maps for the wheelchair community.

Data from trackers can be used to map such things as the best places for a person using a wheelchair to visit a place. The tracker employs an app and is attached to the wheelchair.

Currently, and into the future this would assist inclusive tourism and councils in their accessibility planning. Briometrix is currently working with University of Wollongong and Wollongong City regarding educating the community and for information for visitors.

Coralie Bell, Tourism Manager, advised the Committee about the pilot programs and the Committee agreed that they would like Coralie to progress this project.

The Committee were invited to attend a Briometrix focus group on accessibility information to be held in the Committees Room at the Nowra Showground on 28 February 2017 at 10.30am.

RESOLVED (By consent)

1. That the details of the meeting of the Briometrix focus group to be held in the Committees Room at the Nowra Showground on 28 February 2017 at 10.30am be emailed to Committee members.
2. That the Committee support Council to progress the Briometrix pilot programs.

CARRIED

SAA17.3 Presentation: Accessible Icon Project

**HPERM Ref:
D17/10309**

Kylie Knight and Mel Montgomery addressed the Committee and showed a PowerPoint presentation.

The Accessible Icon Project is an ongoing work of design activism. The graphic accessible icon is free for use in the public domain. The Accessible Icon Project is a collaboration among people with disabilities and their allies toward a more accessible world.

The new icon is white on blue, to keep to the standard colour scheme of the original icon. There is just one wheel, with two cutouts to emphasise its motion.

The Accessible Icon Project would like the Committee to ask Council for support for their the project by phasing out old signs and replacing them with signs with the new icon and using the new icon on the website.

The Committee discussed the new icon and the need for universal accessible design.

More information can be found at <http://accessibleicon.org/>

Recommendation (By consent)

Council consider replacing their current accessible icon with the new accessible icon as designed by the Accessible Icon Project <http://accessibleicon.org/>.

SAA17.1 Application for Membership

HPERM Ref: D17/8342

Recommendation (By consent)

1. That Council appoint Annette Pham as a member of the Shoalhaven Access Advisory Committee.
2. That Annette Pham be notified of her appointment and invited to all future meetings.

SAA17.2 Progress on Actions from Previous Shoalhaven Access Advisory Committee Meetings

HPERM Ref: D17/9875

Donna Corbyn, Youth Community Development Officer, provided an update regarding the beach wheelchairs and advised that she will be lodging a submission to the Local Government awards.

The awards celebrate local government achievements, highlighting innovative and resourceful solutions that local governments have implemented to make a difference within their communities. Donna suggested, once details are known about the awards, that the Committee consider a staff member and a Committee representative to attend the awards ceremony.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Shoalhaven Access Advisory Committee receive the report for information.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

SAA17.3 Presentation: Accessible Icon Project

**HPERM REF:
D17/10309**

Item dealt with earlier in the meeting

SAA17.4 Presentation: Briometrix Mapping Services

**HPERM REF:
D17/31692**

Item dealt with earlier in the meeting

SAA17.5 Assistance Dogs - Access Issues

**HPERM REF:
D17/46274**

Item dealt with earlier in the meeting

SAA17.6 Additional Item - Livvi's Place - Mollymook

Helen Waterhouse, Community Development Officer, provided a PowerPoint presentation and updated the Committee regarding Livvi's Place. Construction of Livvi's Place at Mollymook, an inclusive play space, will begin in the near future.

SAA17.7 Additional Item - Accessible Carparks

Martin Uptis, Assets Manager, provided an update regarding the inspection and technical investigation on the possibility of an accessible parking space to be provided for:

- The 45 degree parking area at Graham St, Nowra (near the public toilet) and;
- Meroo Road, Bomaderry (near the hotel).

The Bomaderry accessible parking space is not viable and would be very costly, however a recommendation will be made to Council for the Graham Street accessible space.

Recommendation (By consent)

That Council:

1. Convert the 2 x 45 degree existing car parks in Graham Street to one accessible carpark.
2. Include the new accessible icon signage.

SAA17.8 Additional Item - Lift Access - New Chinese Restaurant in Huskisson

The Committee agreed that this issue needs to remain on the action table as it is not yet resolved. Signage on how to access the lift is not clear, for example, a sign could be placed near the real estate agency office.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That Council follow up regarding the issue of suitable signage on how to access the lift in the new Chinese restaurant in Huskisson.

CARRIED

SAA17.9 Additional Item - Riverfest Public Access and Transport

The Committee considered how to fund an inclusive bus for the River Festival. It was noted that an application could be made to Council for grant funding. Nola Stephens advised that she would like to discuss making a grant application.

Nola Stephens and Bill Deaves agreed to attend the first River Festival Committee meeting for 2017.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That:

1. A Community Development Officer to assist Nola Stephens to submit a grant application to fund an inclusive bus for the 2017 Riverfest.
2. Shannan Perry-Hall, Tourism Investments and Events Specialist to advise Nola Stephens and Bill Deaves the date, time and venue for the first River Festival Committee meeting for 2017 so that they can attend on behalf of the Shoalhaven Access Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

SAA17.10 Additional Item - Draft Sustainable Events Application Form

The Committee discussed the draft Sustainable Events Application form that was provided with the action table. It was agreed that the Committee would consider the form and provide feedback at the next meeting on 22 May 2017.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Shoalhaven Access Advisory Committee member to consider the draft Sustainable Events Application form and provide feedback at the next Committee meeting on 22 May 2017.

CARRIED

SAA17.11 Additional Item - Membership

Clr Cheyne advised the Committee that she thought it would be appropriate for their membership to include a member of the Aboriginal community and applications will be sought.

SAA17.12 Additional Item - Access Issues - Huskisson Wharf

Jackie Kay raised the on-going access issue at Huskisson Wharf.

The Committee also discussed the Council resolutions of 20 December 2016 and 25 October 2016 regarding establishment of a Huskisson Wharf working party.

Recommendation (By consent)

That Council establish a Huskisson Wharf working party, made up of representatives of RMS, Crown Lands, Jervis Bay Wild (Brendan Aulsebrook), Huskisson Wharf Management Committee (David MacDonald & Terry O'Connor) and Inclusive Tourism (Chris Mitchell) be established immediately with a meeting to be held within 21 days to discuss the ongoing issues at Huskisson Wharf of disability access for inclusive tourism..

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 12.05pm.

Clr Nina Cheyne
CHAIRPERSON