

MINUTES OF THE INCLUSION & ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Monday, 20 May 2024
Location: Osprey Training Room, Level 1, City Administrative Building, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 11.00am

The following members were present:

Mr Hayden Fineran - Chairperson
Clr Patricia White
Clr Gillian Boyd (Remotely)
Ms Jackie Kay
Mr Bill Deaves
Mr Chris Mitchell
Ms Penelope Espinoza Hallett (Remotely)
Mr Frederick Oberg
Ms Kylieanne Derwent – Left 11:57am (Remotely)
Ms Veronica Rawlinson (Remotely)

Others present:

Ms Sandra Gray – South Coast MP Representative (Remotely)
Mr Leslie Coster – Interchange Shoalhaven
Mr James Gould – CEO - Coast and Country Community Services
Ms Felicity Lochhead – Carers NSW
Mr Paul Snudden – Uniting NDIS (Remotely)
Ms Hayley Byrne – Uniting (Remotely)
Ms Carly McWalters – Lead – Community Capacity Building
Ms Monica Kincade - Senior Community Capacity Builder
Mr Toney Pearman - Manager - Certification & Compliance
Ms Alix Gillett - Coordinator - Marketing & Community Engagement – Joined 11:24am
Ms Catherine Snell - Manager Customer Experience – Joined 12:29pm

The meeting was opened with a reading of the Code of Meeting Practice Statement and an Acknowledgement of Country.

IA24.4 Election of Chairperson

Ms Carly McWalters assumed the Chair and asked the members present if there were any nominations for the role of Chairperson.

Hayden Fineran was nominated for the position of Chairperson, and Ms Veronica Rawlinson nominated to Chair the next meeting currently scheduled for 12 August 2024.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee nominate Ms Veronica Rawlinson as Chairperson for the next meeting in 2024.

CARRIED

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Findley, Cllr Kotlash and Lily Wright.

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Minutes of the Inclusion & Access Advisory Committee held on Monday 4 December 2023 and Monday 04 March 2024 be confirmed, with an amendment to the minutes of 4 December 2023 to reflect that Mr Leslie Koster was present.

CARRIED

Declaration of Interests

Nil

PRESENTATIONS

IA24.3 The State of Accessible Transport in the Shoalhaven LGA

HPERM Ref:
D24/110292

Presenter

James Gould, CEO, Coast and Country Community Services Ltd.

Summary

At the Ordinary Meeting of Shoalhaven City Council on 27 November 2023, Council resolved to complete the following actions (MIN23.675):

1. *On behalf of the Inclusion & Access Advisory Committee, write to State Members, the Minister for Transport Ms Jo Haylen, taxi companies and other interested parties, to advocate for improved access to transport in regional areas.*
2. *Invite taxi companies to attend the next Inclusion & Access Advisory Committee meeting, or other meeting, to hear the concerns of the Committee.*

James Gould, CEO, Coast and Country Community Services Ltd, verbally presented on the state of accessible transport in the Shoalhaven LGA.

Mr Gould discussed the current contract under which Coast and Country Community Services currently operates, and the barriers it presents. It was also noted that planned changes are coming in 2027, as the service moves towards becoming a NDIS provider.

The Committee discussed the need for data to be collected on current accessible transport options, and the accessible transport needs of people living with a disability in the Shoalhaven, and made the recommendation below.

RECOMMENDATION (By consent)

That the Inclusion & Access Advisory Committee:

1. Acknowledge the presentation and thank Mr James Gould for presenting.
2. Request staff write to the Local Members (Liza Butler MP, Gareth Ward MP and Fiona Phillips MP) to seek funding to identify a peak body to undertake the following work, so that future community funding can be tailored to the accessible transport needs in the Shoalhaven:
 - a. Coordinate data collection of current accessible transport options,
 - b. Collect data on the accessible transport needs of people living with a disability.

CARRIED

Post meeting note: On review of the minutes, staff have identified that the above recommendation requires further consideration. At the next meeting scheduled for 12 August, Council is expecting that the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District and Coordinator – the South East Primary Health Network will be in attendance to provide further information on this subject. Once the Committee have heard from all parties, they will be in a better position to provide an informed recommendation. Staff have spoken with the Committee members that proposed this recommendation and they are supportive of deferring a recommendation to the next meeting.

IA24.1 Presentation – Community Engagement Check-In

**HPERM Ref:
D24/47070**

Last year, Council adopted the Shoalhaven City Council Community Engagement Strategy that the Manager Media and Communications, Caitlin Lewis sought feedback from the Committee at the time of creation in November 2022.

The Media and Communications Team is now in the early stages of developing the Community Engagement Framework. This is intended to support the strategy and develop a consistent, best-practice approach for the whole organisation to engage with Shoalhaven communities. The team are seeking input and suggestions from the members of the Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee to be considered for inclusion in the framework.

The information presented to the Committee is attached to these minutes.

REPORTS

**IA24.2 Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee Updated
Action Table Report - 20 May 2024**

**HPERM Ref:
D24/33302**

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Inclusion and Access Advisory Committee:

1. Receive the Update on Actions Report for information.
2. Acknowledge the following actions as complete and remove from the action table:
 - a. IA22.21 - Additional Item - Accessibility to Shops - Nowra CBD.
 - b. IA23.25 - Dylan Alcott's Disability Inclusion Program - Sport4All - Presentation Received - January Informal Meeting - Report Back to IAAC.
 - c. IA23.20 - Public / Community Transport & Taxi Services - Regional Areas - Advocate for improved access - State Members / Minister for Transport / Taxi companies - Invitation to IAAC (taxi).

RESOLVED (By consent)

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3. Receives an update on Accessibility to Shops in the Nowra CBD when a funding source becomes available, or changes to relevant infrastructure occur.
4. Request to be added to Councils grants notification list.
5. In relation to IA23.20, re-send an additional letter to 13Cabs due to the new ownership.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

Customer Experience & Contact Centre Accessibility - Update

Catherine Snell - Manager Customer Experience, provided an update to the Committee following the informal workshop regarding Customer Service and Contact Centre accessibility and ease of access for all residents. Ms Snell advised the following:

- Council's website has gone live with the accessibility menu widget
- Moving towards organisational training for people with disabilities
- The layout of Council's website has been updated to facilitate greater accessibility

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 12:59pm.

Hayden Fineran
CHAIRPERSON