

MINUTES

DISABILITY INCLUSION AND ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING ROOM 2, COFFS HARBOUR COMMUNITY VILLAGE, GORDON STREET, COFFS HARBOUR
 10AM FRIDAY 3 JUNE 2022

ATTENDEES:	Steven Paul (SP)	Chair – Coffs Harbour Support Services
	Tanya Watts (TW)	Community Representative
	David Anderson (DA)	Community Representative
	Madalyn Hails (MH)	Community Representative
	Cr Tony Judge (TJ)	Councillor Representative
	Heather Reid (HR)	Council Staff Representative - Minute Taker
GUEST ATTENDEES:	Sonia Doohan (SD)	Coffs Harbour City Council
	Lynda Warwick (LW)	Blue Sky Community Services Inc
	Lyndal Bosman (LM)	Guide Dogs
	Nicole McLennan (NM)	Coffs Harbour City Council

Item	Discussion	Actioner
Meeting Open	10:04 am	
1. Acknowledgement of Country		Chair
2. Apologies:	Sophie Bek (SB), Khishkok Abdo (KA), Matt Crawley (MC), Jane Rowland (JR)	Noted
3. Confirmation of Minutes	Minutes of Meeting of 13 May 2022	Noted
4. Business Arising –		
5. General Business		
5.1 Ecotourism Certification and tourism opportunities for people with disabilities – Nicole McLennan, Team Leader, Industry Development	In 2021, Council received certification as NSW’s first Eco Tourism Destination (2nd only in Australia to Port Douglas). This required 100 points of accreditation and a proven strong, well-managed commitment to sustainability and high-quality nature-based tourism. While Council managed the process, our whole region and community was evaluated against six criteria:	Council

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Destination Management - sustainable development, infrastructure, planning and monitoring. 2. Nature & Scenery- wildlife, landscape and scenery. 3. Environment & Climate – management of water, waste, pollution and renewable resources. 4. Culture & Tradition - respect and protection of living culture, traditions, and cultural sites. 5. Social & Well-being - the way our community gets involved, looks after each other (and the land) and creates a strong, fair economy. 6. Business & Hospitality - how the tourism sector takes responsibility for sustainability, promotes our regions respectfully and looks after our tourists. <p>Seven local businesses also have ecotourism accreditation.</p> <p>Council is using this certification as a framework to promote business development.</p> <p>Council has also produced a physical map of the local area and a QR Quest for children to move around different destination sites.</p> <p>The Coffs Coast Website has an accessibility page. Research by the Visitor Support Officers has provided a better understanding of accommodation options for people with accessibility needs.</p> <p>Funding from bushfire recovery has also assisted Council to 1. Train local businesses to improve their web presence and the information that they deliver, and 2. Develop a discovery app as an augmented experience of the Solitary Islands Walk and the Orara Valley Trail.</p> <p>Council is also developing a new Tourism Strategic Plan for the next four years.</p> <p>Feedback:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of a pool of volunteers willing to assist carers visiting the area where more than one carer is required. 2. Need to look at accessibility in key sites such as the Jetty Strip and Sawtell for visitors 3. Paving is important to increase accessibility for the southern end of the Jetty (TW) 	

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	<p>Port Hastings Council has invited local businesses to be assessed for inclusivity particularly for people with mobility aids. (LB)</p> <p>‘Access at a Glance’ app – needs to include where public toilets etc are located. (LW)</p> <p>Difficulty with transport providers refusing assistance animals – further education is required (TW)</p> <p>Concept of Uber assist may help (SP)</p> <p>Council’s 6-Degrees website can provide links for businesses to the resources on the Blue Sky Communities webpage ‘Access at a Glance’. (NM)</p> <p>Importance of replacing tactile indicators and ensuring their durability (built-in) to provide uniformity in open spaces. Businesses need to maintain a clear ‘shoreline’ and a reduction of clutter for people with low vision (LB).</p> <p>Have seen some commitment from local businesses to improve accessibility and increase beach access is positive (LW).</p> <p>Council projects such as the Whale Trail need to have an accessibility assessment (TJ).</p> <p>Use of symbols on tourism marketing to denote activities or venues that are accessible so that visitors can streamline searches.</p>	
<p>5.2 Update on the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) review</p>	<p>The draft DIAP action plan was approved by Council at the meeting of 28 April 2022 with public exhibition closing 29 May 2022. One submission was received. The final report is to be adopted at the Council Meeting of 23 June 2022.</p> <p>A copy of the DIAP actions was distributed to the Committee for comment.</p>	<p>Council</p>
<p>5.3 International Day of People with Disability Planning</p>	<p>A need to focus on community connection for people with disabilities after the isolation of the COVID pandemic.</p> <p>Suggestion of a ‘games day’ at the Coffs Harbour Jetty area with music and craft on Saturday 3 December with marquees by NDIA & CHCC and</p>	<p>Council</p>

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	<p>performances such as All Abilities Zumba, MixTub Theatre and a band.</p> <p>Also suggestions of a cooking competition (patty cake decorations at least), plantings, the 'Toads'</p>	
<p>5.4 Info Exchange / Round Table</p>	<p>Pacific Bay would like to commend Aidacare and Willaid for their responsiveness to assisting people with additional needs (TW)</p> <p>New accommodation will increase the options for visitors. (TW)</p> <p>Tourism brochure needs to showcase accessibility options in the directory (TW)</p> <p>Accessibility needs to be included as a consideration on Council reports (TJ)</p> <p>David to send this photograph to be included in the eco tourism competition. (DA)</p> <p>Blue Sky Community Services is looking forward to rolling out the inclusive drama package to improve connection in local schools. (LW)</p> <p>App to include a community based directory (LW)</p> <p>Bill Shorten as Minister for Disability has approved select NDIS plans to roll-over where criteria is met (LW).</p> <p>Covid has enhanced accessibility and connection for people who are blind or have low vision. Only 20% of Guide Dog clients have dogs. (LB)</p>	<p>Council</p>
<p>6. Outstanding Actions Review</p>	<p>Attachment 1</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>7. Next Meeting:</p>	<p>Friday 5 August 2022, Committee Room 2, Coffs Harbour Community Village 10 am.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Meeting Close</p>	<p>12:10 pm</p>	

Date	Item	Decision / Action	Assigned To	Due Date	Updates
3 Sep 2021	Footpath missing on northern side of Albany making it difficult for support housing clients to access the CBD past Brelsford. Also footpath in Hill Street, Coffs Harbour	Ongoing	Council	1/10/2021,	HR – provided feedback to the Committee 1 October that Council's Traffic Engineer was investigating. No update on Hill Street.
5 Nov 2021	Establish guiding principles for café owner to ensure menus, and the fit out of the café meet accessibility needs	Ken Welham and Heather Reid to action	Council	3/12/2021	Yarilla Place Project
5 Nov 2021	Sufficient room under tables to enable wheelchair to go easily under a table – including meeting tables and in the café – (note: tables with single poles impede wheelchair access, better to have 4 legs to allow multiple wheelchairs at a table setting	Ken Welham to look into this matter	Council	3/12/2021	Yarilla Place Project
5 Nov 2021	Will there be an external awning to allow cover when it rains for people with disability to enter / exit the building	Heather Reid to discuss/follow up with Ken Welham	Council	3/12/2021	Yarilla Place Project
5 Nov 2021	Ability to change lighting in meeting rooms for sign interpreters – Lipman to confirm if anyone can change the lighting levels in the meeting rooms	Lipman to follow up and provide a response to KW/HR	Lipman	3/12/2021	Yarilla Place Project
5 Nov 2021	Council to have low sensory hour – similar to Woolworths and Coles – on certain day/mornings – quiet hour for the library/museum/art gallery and sensory spaces for people to go to	Heather Reid to follow up.	Council	3/12/2021	Has been included as a DIAP action