
**DISABILITY INCLUSION & ACCESS COMMITTEE
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GRIFFITH ON
WEDNESDAY, 5 JUNE 2024 COMMENCING AT 1:00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Shari Blumer (Chair), Colin Beaton (Community Representative), Patricia Cox (Community Representative), Marilyn Hams (Community Representative), Mike Neville (Community Representative, via Zoom), Val Woodland (Community Representative), Nickolette Owen (Community Representative), Soheil Derakhshan (Community Representative, via Zoom)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson, Planning & Environment Manager, Carel Potgieter, Community Development Coordinator, Melissa Canzian and Minute Secretary, Melanie Hebrok

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Laurie Testoni, Bruce Gibbs, Melanie Vella and Erin Fletcher.

Absent: Simone Murphy, Peter Badenhorst.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Val Woodland and Pat Cox that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 May 2024, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 CONVERSION OF EEO POLICY & MANAGEMENT PLAN FROM INTERNAL TO EXTERNAL COUNCIL POLICY

Ms Donaldson presented the draft Anti-Discrimination & Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) policy, based on the LGNSW model policy, which will be converted to a public policy and include the previously internal Management Plan.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Colin Beaton and Pat Cox that the Draft EEO Policy be endorsed by the Committee as an external policy and presented to Council for subsequent exhibition and adoption.

The Committee will discuss the policy in detail at the next meeting with the aim of forming a joint submission.

Carel Potgieter entered the meeting at 1:10pm.

Mrs Donaldson introduced Mr Potgieter, who will be taking on the role of Acting Director of Sustainable Development after Bruce Gibbs' resignation. The Committee welcomed Mr Potgieter.

Councillor Blumer noted that at the recent Community Opinion Group meeting, it was mentioned that Council will be reviewing its Disability Inclusion & Access Plan (DIAP) next year, which will be a major task for the DIAC Committee in the new Council term. All members are encouraged to re-apply for membership following the Council election in September.

Councillor Blumer further noted an issue that was previously discussed by the Committee was the gap in employment opportunities for young people and school leavers. Mrs Canzian to approach disability employment providers inviting them to attend the Griffith Careers and Employment Expo on 2 August 2024, which will also be attended by the schools in our region. The Chair also noted that free courses are available for eligible people through Western Riverina Community College, for anyone looking to improve their job opportunities.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

The Committee discussed the Outstanding Action Report and provided updates where relevant.

6.1 General Business – Regional Disability Advocacy Service

Several contacts attempts were made with no response – to be taken off the OAR.

6.2 MLAK Key and Access for the New Mountain Bike Trail

Signage has been ordered, authorised works for Maintenance Coordinator.

6.3 Griffith City Library Accessibility Policy

Works completed – to be taken off OAR, with a new Action to be created for the Policy if deemed necessary.

Shireen Donaldson left the meeting, the time being 1:39 pm.

6.4 Adult Change Facilities

Councillor Blumer noted that an Adult Change table will be installed at the new Hanwood Oval Amenities complex, however no hoist is included. Mrs Owen said this was a job half done, as it was not always safe for carers to lift adults without the hoist support. Mr Badenhorst to discuss at the next meeting.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Pat Cox and Marilyn Hams that Council investigate the cost of installing adult change facilities at the Griffith Regional Sports Centre.

SMT Comment:

Should Council support the above recommendation, Council staff will be required to undertake an assessment of the GRSC as to its ability to accommodate the equipment required. As part of this assessment, Council staff will obtain a costing to purchase a mobile adult change table and mobile hoist.

The Committee further discussed the lack of accessible adult change facilities outside of business hours and central to the community, with possible MLAK system facilities to be looked at.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Nickolette Owen and Soheil Derakhshan that Council investigate the creation of a 24 hour accessible adult change facility with a hoist in a central location in Griffith, an option being Memorial Park.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Relocated Bus Shelters

Mr Beaton enquired whether one of the bus shelters could be relocated to Riverdale Parade as a result of the newly constructed shelters in Banna Avenue and Yambil Street. Mrs Donaldson took the question on notice.

7.2 Footpath - Stage 4 Yambil Street Upgrade

Mr Beaton asked whether the current upgrade in Yambil Street between Daines Street and Kookora Street includes a planned upgrade to the footpath outside Trennery Funerals, as his wife has experienced safety issues when trying to access the footpath with her mobility scooter. Mrs Donaldson took the question on notice.

7.3 Footpath – Jondaryan Avenue / Banna Lane

Mr Beaton further noted his wife has experienced issues with her mobility scooter on the footpath where Jondaryan Avenue crosses Banna Lane, as the surface was rough and unsafe. Mrs Donaldson to lodge a customer request for footpath inspection and report back to the Committee on the outcome.

Mr Derakhshan asked if there was a schedule for maintenance works and what triggers works in a particular area. Mrs Donaldson noted that works were often complaint-driven and

dependent on budget allocation. She will check with the relevant department about available plans and schedules.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Disability Inclusion & Access Committee is to be held on Wednesday, 3 July 2024 at 1:00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 2:02 pm.