
**DISABILITY INCLUSION & ACCESS COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GRIFFITH ON
WEDNESDAY, 28 MAY 2025 COMMENCING AT 4:00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Shari Blumer (Chair), Geoff Tarr (Community Representative), Jodie Ridge (Community Representative (via zoom)), Marilyn Hams (Community Representative), Ralph Twaddell (Community Representative), Soheil Derakhshan (Community Representative), Suzanne Biondo (Community Representative)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson, Urban Strategic Design & Major Projects Manager, Peter Badenhorst, Project Planner, Jason Bertacco, Community Development Coordinator, Melissa Canzian, Governance Manager, Leanne Austin and Minute Secretary, Antoinette Galluzzo

1 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Soheil Derakhshan and Ralph Twaddell that apologies be received from Councillor Laurie Testoni, Urban Strategic Design & Major Projects Manager, Peter Badenhorst and Director, Infrastructure and Operations, Phil King.

Absent: Jaimee Damini (Community Representative)

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Shari Blumer and Marilyn Hams that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 July 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 INDUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS - MANDATORY

Leanne Austin, Governance Manager, provided an overview of the Committee induction process which Committee members may access on Council's website. Committee members are required to read the Code of Conduct policy and procedures, Code of Meeting Practice policy, Statements to the Media Policy, Social Media Policy, Information Protection Principles and Child Safe policy. Committee members are also required to complete the online policy acknowledgment form. Explanation was provided in relation to the requirement to declare any Conflicts of Interest Committee members may have in their consideration of Committee matters.

CL02 TERMS OF REFERENCE

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Ralph Twaddell and Soheil Derakhshan that the Committee adopt the Terms of Reference attached to the report.

CL03 PROPOSED MEETING DATES 2025

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Suzanne Biondo and Jodie Ridge that the following Committee Meeting dates for 2025 be adopted.

- Wednesday, 28 May 2025
- Wednesday, 17 September 2025
- Wednesday, 17 December 2025

Melissa Canzian advised the Committee she had received a request from Regional Disability Advocacy Service for a representative to join the Committee. Ms Canzian will confirm availability and report back to the Committee.

CL04 BUILDING A CULTURE OF ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION - ONLINE TRAINING FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson provided an overview on the Building a Culture of Accessibility and Inclusion eLearning course (available for free on the Australian Human Rights Commission website (AHRC)), which Committee members are encouraged to complete.

The Committee discussed other AHRC disability awareness training courses available through the Human Rights Commission. AHRC course potentially available in October 2025.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Soheil Derakhshan and Suzanne Biondo that the AHRC, Disability Awareness Training (half day workshop) be included in the staff training plan 2025/26. This training is to be available to both Council staff and Committee members.

CL05 REGIONAL DISABILITY ADVOCACY SERVICE - REQUEST

Ms Canzian advised the Committee that the Regional Disability Advocacy Service will be holding a workshop in Griffith, 10 June 2025. Committee members are encouraged to register and attend.

CL06 KOOYOO STREET MALL - INSTALLATION OF TACTILE INDICATORS

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Jodie Ridge and Ralph Twaddell that Council install yellow tactile indicator tiles (Option 2) in accordance with AS 1428.4 Means to assist the orientation of people with vision impairment – Tactile ground surface indicators (TGSI), as recommended by best industry practice for safety.

This was a unanimous decision.

CL07 ITEMS RAISED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER

Item 1 – Mrs Hams requested additional advertising and posters to advise Yenda residents when COG meetings are being held in Yenda and that speakers be limited to 5-10 minutes. Mrs Donaldson responded that this feedback will be taken on board.

Item 2 – Mrs Hams raised the issues of access at the Yenda Post Office and kerb and guttering at the Yenda shops. Ms Donaldson advised the Committee she would raise the access to the Yenda Post Office issue with the Senior Management Team. The kerb and guttering issue will be referred to the Roads, Parks, Pathways Enhancement Committee.

Item 3 – Mrs Hams raised the issue of disabled parking at Service NSW. A disabled parking space has been removed and it is very difficult for disabled people to access the footpath. Mrs Donaldson advised this would be raised with the Senior Management Team.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Soheil Derakhshan and Geoff Tarr that the correspondence be noted and appropriate action be taken.

CL08 PETITION RECEIVED 29 APRIL 2025

Ms Donaldson advised electric charging for mobility scooters could be made available at the following Council facilities – Library, Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre, Griffith Regional Sports Centre and Tourism Hub – during their normal business hours which does encompass weekends. The option for 24 hour access in Banna Avenue was also raised. Kooyoo Mall was identified as being a potentially suitable location, due to exceptional lighting and CCTV coverage. Existing secured power points located on the Kooyoo Kiosk could be to be modified to be accessed via the MLAK system.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Soheil Derakhshan and Jodie Ridge that:

- (a) Staff investigate and promote Council facilities suitable to provide free charging points for mobility scooters.
- (b) Staff investigate access to power at the Kooyoo Street Kiosk for charging mobility scooters including accessibility with an MLAK Key.

SMT COMMENT – Costing for MLAK Key is \$25 and \$145 per padlock. Preferred location is at the back of the Kiosk as there is adequate lighting, shelter and CCTV coverage. Council facilities to be canvassed for suitable locations.

- GRALC can accommodate
- Regional Theatre can accommodate

- Griffith Regional Sports Centre can accommodate
- Griffith City Council Administrative building can accommodate



CL09 DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN - CHECK-IN & REVIEW

Ms Canzian advised the Committee the Disability Action Plan is currently on exhibition and required to be reviewed adopted by 30 June 2025. Council is then required to 'remark the plan' by 30 June 2026, so an opportunity for additional feedback is available in 2025/26 for the new Plan.

Councillor Blumer encouraged members of the Committee to complete the online survey and provide feedback on the Plan by 30 May 2025.

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

7 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Disability Inclusion & Access Committee is to be held on 17 September 2025 at 4:00pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 5:33pm.