
**DISABILITY INCLUSION & ACCESS COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GRIFFITH ON
WEDNESDAY, 1 MAY 2024 AT 1:00 PM**

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Confirmation of Minutes
- 3 Business Arising
- 4 Declarations of Interest
- 5 Items of Business
- 6 p5 Outstanding Action Report
- 7 General Business
- 8 Next Meeting

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Councillor Shari Blumer (Chair), Laurie Testoni (Councillor - Alternate), Colin Beaton (Community Representative), Patricia Cox (Community Representative), Marilyn Hams (Community Representative), Simone Murphy (Community Representative), Mike Neville (Community Representative), Val Woodland (Community Representative), Jaimee Damini (Community Representative), Erin Fletcher (Community Representative), Soheil Derakhshan (Community Representative)

Director Sustainable Development, Bruce Gibbs; Principal Planner Urban Design & Strategic Planning, Peter Badenhorst; Project Planner, Melanie Vella; Community Development Coordinator, Melissa Canzian and Minute Secretary, Hannah Hall

Quorum = 3

If you are unable to attend this meeting please notify the Minute Secretary prior to commencement of the meeting by email or by telephoning Council on 1300 176 077.

This Committee meeting may be attended remotely and recorded by audio or audio-visual means for administrative purposes. No other recording is permitted.

Acknowledgement of Country

Griffith City Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters, and their deep knowledge embedded within the Aboriginal community.

Council further pays respect to the local Wiradjuri Elders, past, present and those emerging, for whom we acknowledge have responsibilities for the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of the local Wiradjuri people.

**DISABILITY INCLUSION & ACCESS COMMITTEE
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GRIFFITH ON
WEDNESDAY, 3 APRIL 2024 COMMENCING AT 1:01 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Laurie Testoni (Acting Chair), Colin Beaton (Community Representative), Patricia Cox (Community Representative), Marilyn Hams (Community Representative), Mike Neville (Community Representative, Via Zoom), Soheil Derakhshan (Community Representative)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

Director Sustainable Development, Bruce Gibbs, Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson, Urban Strategic Design & Major Projects Manager, Peter Badenhorst, and Minute Secretary, Hannah Hall

ABSENT

Simone Murphy (Community Representative), Jaimee Damini (Community Representative), Erin Fletcher (Community Representative)

1 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Patricia Cox and Marilyn Hams that apologies be received from Councillor Shari Blumer, Val Woodland, Melissa Canzian and Melanie Vella.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Patricia Cox and Marilyn Hams that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 March 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 UPDATE ON HER WAY PROJECT

Mrs Donaldson provided the Committee with an update on the Her Way Project. The project is on schedule and project completion is expected in July 2024. Works are commencing in Don Best Park and Community Garden, lighting upgrades in McCook Carpark and Kooyoo Street and Ulong Street bridge rehabilitation.

Mr Beaton enquired as to whether pathways in Canal Street are to be included in this project. Mrs Donaldson advised that the Her Way funding and project budget was to activate spaces from Coolah Street to the CBD which are safe, and did not extend to footpaths along Coolah Street. Coolah Street has been identified as a priority in the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) and is dependent on funding.

Mrs Cox asked if Soroptimist are able to do a clean-up along either side of the canal along Canal Street. Mrs Donaldson asked that the president of Soroptimist liaise with Melanie Vella as Project Manager.

The Committee received the information provided.

CL02 CONSULTATION FOR REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Mrs Donaldson advised the Committee that Council are currently reviewing their Community Strategic Plan (CSP). Council are consulting with the Community to understand what their priorities are for the future of Griffith, and are asking the Community to fill out a short survey. Councillor Testoni stressed the importance of the CSP for Councillors to understand the community's priorities when making decisions.

Mrs Cox asked if Council could present the CSP consultation to different community groups? Mrs Donaldson advised that this is something that Council are more than willing to do, and for any community groups who are interested to get in contact with Council.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

6.1 Regional Disability Advocacy Service

The Committee was advised that Ms Girling is unavailable on Wednesdays. It was asked that staff liaise with Ms Girling to arrange a mutually agreeable time to present to Council.

6.2 Reinstating of MLAK System

Council are currently working out details to reinstate the MLAK System throughout the Griffith Local Government Area.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Pathway from 3 Ways to CBD

Mrs Cox raised the lack of accessible walk ways from 3 ways to the CBD, and asked if this was a priority in the PAMP. Mrs Donaldson took this ON NOTICE.

7.2 Autism Awareness Month

Mrs Hams advised the Committee that it is Autism Awareness Month. Mrs Donaldson said she would arrange for the Nancy Blumer Memorial to be lit with blue lights and outdoor poster to be installed.

7.3 Update on Changes to Recruitment Process

Mrs Donaldson advised that updates to Council's recruitment portal are being tested this week, and should be live by Friday.

7.4 Disability Inclusion Access Plan (DIAP)

Mr Derakhshan asked for timelines in regards to consultation and review of the DIAP by the Committee, conscious of the time restraints leading into the Local Government Elections. Mrs Donaldson took this ON NOTICE.

7.5 Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Initiative

Mr Beaton advised that the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Initiative has gained momentum throughout Australia. Mrs Donaldson advised that Council would investigate further.

8 NEXT MEETING

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

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 1:38pm.

TITLE Outstanding Action Report

TRIM REF 24/49172

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Outstanding Action Report [↓](#)

6

ACTION REPORT**DISABILITY INCLUSION AND ACCESS COMMITTEE – 3 April 2024**

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Action Officer	Comment
3 April 2024	General Business 7.5 Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Initiative	Mr Beaton advised that the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Initiative has gained momentum throughout Australia. Mrs Donaldson advised that Council would investigate further.	Shireen Donaldson	4/4/2024: Council are required to join via a membership with Hidden Disabilities. Membership starts at \$500. They are also required to purchase lanyards at \$8 each.
3 April 2024	General Business 7.4 Disability Inclusion and Access Plan	Mr Derakhshan asked for timelines in regards to consultation and review of the DIAP by the Committee, conscious of the time restraints leading into the Local Government Elections. Mrs Donaldson took this ON NOTICE.	Shireen Donaldson	17/04/2024: DIAP review is to be completed by July 2025, and a new DIAP is due 1 July 2026.
3 April 2024	General Business 7.2 Autism Awareness Month	Mrs Hams advised the Committee that it is Autism Awareness Month. Mrs Donaldson said she would arrange for the Nancy Blumer Memorial to be lit with blue lights and outdoor poster to be installed.	Shireen Donaldson	4/4/2024: Lighting of fountain and poster arranged.
3 April 2024	General Business 7.1 Pathway from 3 Ways to CBD	Mrs Cox raised the lack of accessible walk ways from 3 ways to the CBD, and asked if this was a priority in the PAMP. Mrs Donaldson took this ON NOTICE.	Shireen Donaldson	4/4/2024: Coolah Street & Noorla Street have been identified as priority in the PAMP, and are dependent on funding. Funding has been applied for, and Council has been unsuccessful for the past two years.
6 March 2024	General Business – Regional Disability Advocacy Service	Invite Kirst Girling from RDAS to next Committee Meeting	Melissa Canzian	3/4/2024: Staff to liaise with Ms Girling to lock in a mutually beneficial time for her to present to the Committee.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Action Officer	Comment
6 March 2024	CL02 MLAK KEY AND ACCESS FOR THE NEW MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Soheil Derakhshan and Val Woodland that: (a) The MLAK system be used at the Mountain Bike Trail. (b) That Council reinstate the MLAK system throughout the Griffith LGA. (c) A map be created and displayed on Council website and social media platforms identifying locations of accessible facilities with the MLAK system	Peter Badenhorst	3/4/2024: Council are currently working on details for the reinstating of the MLAK system in the Griffith LGA.
6 March 2024	CL01 SUGGESTIONS FOR DIMENTIA	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Pat Cox and Val Woodland that Council: (a) Investigate the elements of dementia parks. (b) Prepare a report to the Committee with such elements.	Peter Badenhorst	
7 February 2024	CL01 Employment Opportunities for People With A Disability	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Colin Beaton and Mike Neville that the Equal Opportunity Employment (EEO) Policy to be reviewed by Council.	Workforce Planning	15/2/2024: This policy is currently an internal policy. 6/3/2024: Update provided to Committee. See minutes of 6 March meeting. 26/04/2024: Equal Employment Opportunities Policy is currently being reviewed by staff with the idea to convert to a Public (external) policy. The draft policy will be presented to the Committee prior to public exhibition.
7 February 2024	Presentation by Mrs Suzanne Biondo	Invite Mrs Biondo and Lewis to next Committee Meeting	Councillor Blumer Committee Secretary	3/4/2024: Councillor Blumer to contact Mrs Biondo to give verbal update.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Action Officer	Comment
6 December 2023	3.2 Request from Helen Dalton	Mr Gibbs advised the Committee that Council had received a letter from Helen Dalton requesting that Council provide an accessible lane at the Griffith Regional Aquatic Centre. Council Blumer suggested that Council obtain more information from Helen Dalton regarding this request. The Committee agreed and Mr Gibbs advised that he would contact Helen Dalton and report back to the Committee in the new year.	Bruce Gibbs	6/3/2024: Incorrect number provided. Councillor Blumer to follow up through Helen Daltons Office.
5 July 2023	CL03 Griffith City Library Accessibility Policy	Councillor Blumer will contact Wagga Wagga City Council to understand their process of engaging with all of their facilities in the hopes of implementing something similar in the Griffith Community.	Shari Blumer	5/07/2023: Mr Badenhorst advised the Committee that he will provide solutions to the Committee at their next meeting. 6/3/2024: Toilets have been upgraded. Shelving is scheduled to be replaced. Mrs Donaldson will look at policy.
2 February 2023	Adult Change Facilities	Ms Owen to prepare a letter to Griffith City Council and Griffith Sports Council requesting that Adult Change Facilities be installed in at GRSC.	Ms Owen/Ms Damini	3/5/2023: Ms Owen sent a letter to the GRSC asking that adult change facilities be considered for their venue. Councillor Blumer advised that Councillor Testoni and the Sports Council will progress this matter.