
GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

ITEM 9.8 SF2422 131218 MINUTES OF THE NAMBUCCA SHIRE COUNCIL ACCESS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 21 NOVEMBER 2018

AUTHOR/ENQUIRIES: Coral Hutchinson, Manager Community Development

SUMMARY:

The minutes of the Nambucca Shire Council Access Committee meeting held Wednesday 21 November 2018 are **attached** for Council's endorsement.

There are 5 recommendations for Council's attention mostly in regard to the Macksville River foreshore.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1 That Council approach NSW Roads and Maritime Services for funding for lighting and improvements to pedestrian access across and under Macksville Bridge.
- 2 That Council advise NSW Roads and Maritime Services that issues have been raised about the slipperiness and therefore potential for falls, of the checker-plate steel (when wet) on the access ramp at the southern approach to Macksville Bridge.
- 3 That Council investigate options for safer pedestrian access across River Street (western end) Macksville to improve pedestrian access between the shops and foreshore.
- 4 That a feasibility report be prepared for installation of a wheelchair access ramp in the vicinity of the Princess Street Macksville toilets to avoid the need for people using wheelchairs, mobility scooters and prams to go on the road and around the roundabout to access the river foreshore.
- 5 With reference to the Macksville River foreshore, that the small steps at the centre of the seat steps (bleachers) which are non-compliant and the small concrete apron at the top of the seats be removed; and that further, Council staff be requested to place additional soil along the grass strip to create a level transition between the footpath and the seating.
- 6 That Council endorse the minutes of the Nambucca Shire Council Access Committee meeting held 21 November 2018.

OPTIONS:

Council has the option of not endorsing the minutes or making additional or alternative resolutions.

DISCUSSION:

The Access Committee was very pleased to be able to participate in an onsite inspection of Macksville River foreshore and then a workshop on the Highlighting Our Heritage bridge project on Wednesday 21 November 2018. The Access Committee's recommendations are intended to complement the Bridge project and support the concept of maximising use of the grant for key elements of the project (lighting, interpretive signage) whilst providing Council staff with support for a seeking any other financial or other resources which might be available. Specifically, the Committee wishes to advocate to NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) for some improvements for pedestrians as a part of the bridge project as the RMS has indicated it may come to the party with some resources for the project.

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In addition, the site inspection clearly highlighted the access issues for people with vision impairment as a result of the small steps at the centre of the bleachers. The Committee acknowledges that the small steps were installed with the best of intentions, however they are not compliant and are essentially superfluous with two other sets of steps only a few metres each side. The small area of concrete at the top will also need to be removed to avoid wrongly directing people with low vision.

Note: Seniors Festival will be earlier in 2019 and it proposed that Council's main activity – the Senior's luncheon will be held 14 February 2019. A grant of \$1,000, to match Council's budget allocation has been received.

CONSULTATION:

Co-ordinator Strategic Planning and Natural Resources

The onsite visit and workshop was attended by representatives from Vision Australia, Mary Boulton Cottage Museum Committee and Council staff. Rod Edwards was representing the Macksville Chamber of Commerce and who is also a member of Rotary was also in attendance.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:**Environment**

Nothing identified

Social

Improved access has positive social outcomes for the community particularly people with disability.

Economic

Nothing identified relating to this report.

Risk

The majority of the recommendations to Council from the 21 November minutes are coming from a risk management point of view, mostly avoiding trips and falls.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**Direct and indirect impact on current and future budgets**

Nothing required.

Source of fund and any variance to working funds

Nil

Service level changes and resourcing/staff implications

Nothing identified

ATTACHMENTS:

1 44175/2018 - Minutes of the Nambucca Shire Council Access Committee - 21 November 2018