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**PRESENT**

**Members:**

Councillor Peter Alley (Chair)  
Ben Oultram  
Bruce Gibbs  
Elizabeth Rose  
Helen Booby  
Ian Irwin  
Julie Haraksin  
Mike Ipsen  
Sharon Beard  
Julie Priest (PMHC Aged & Disability Officer)

**Other Attendees:**

Sandra Wallace (PMHC Community Participation Manager)  
Pip Cox (PMHC Road Safety Officer)  
Graham Saunders (Observer)  
Edward Laming (Resident)  
Eight residents in support of Mr Laming (Observers)

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The meeting opened at 2:00pm.

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**01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

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The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

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**02 APOLOGIES**

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**CONSENSUS:**

That the apologies received from Phil White, Cheryl Dimmock and Lucilla Marshall be accepted.

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**03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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Julie Haraksin noted that the discussion item 05.05 Changing Places Adult Change Table, that the location of the facility was confirmed to be at the Plaza Car Park, adjacent to Short Street, Port Macquarie.

**CONSENSUS:**

That the Minutes of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Access Sub-Committee Meeting held on 4 December 2018 be confirmed.

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**04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Julie Haraksin disclosed her continued pecuniary interest in Item 5, that was declared at the 4 December 2018 Access Sub-Committee meeting, the reason being she owns a shop in Colonial Arcade.

Ian Irwin disclosed his continued pecuniary interest in Item 5, that was declared at the 4 December 2018 Access Sub-Committee meeting, the reason being he owns a shop in Colonial Arcade.

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**05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**05.01 Access Friendly Project**

Thank you to Sharon Beard, Cheryl Dimmock and Julie Priest for undertaking a visit to the businesses at Colonial Arcade. Some businesses were very helpful, others like the Colonial Cobbler and butcher have stair impediments. At the time of the visit the public toilet was unlocked and clean. There is no accessible toilet available. Met briefly with the Strata Manager Nicole Small and discussion about need for an accessible toilet. Development Assessment Officer advised due to age of building an accessible toilet would not be a condition of the old DA.

Cr Alley suggested Bunnings as the next location. Bruce advised there was inconsistent treatment of concrete around the pedestrian push buttons at the traffic lights.

**CONSENSUS:**

1. That correspondence be sent to Strata Manager recommending an accessible toilet be installed in Colonial Arcade facility.
2. That the next Access visit be coordinated to review the new Bunnings and include an assessment of the pedestrian footpath and traffic lights.

**05.02.01 Accessible Updates**

Pip Cox provided an updated about locations of existing and missing kerb ramps along Lake Road and the medical precinct. Discussion about linkages and safe connections as

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challenging gradients may impact on the feasibility. There may be an opportunity to look for funding. Committee members encouraged to take photos of missing links along that corridor and forward to her.

The Committee noted that the footpath link along Central Road from Park Lands Retirement Village to the post office has been completed.

Discussion about East Port Bowling Club. The four accessible car spaces are sandwiched between a dish gutter and light poles. The Australian Standard length is 5400mm. The length is 5000mm then a tyre stopper and 400mm. This prevents a vehicle requiring rear access / lifter to use these spaces.

A draft Council Report for \$30k annual budget for kerb ramps is being reviewed by Council staff. It is scheduled that the Report is presented to the March Council meeting, and if the funding is allocated, to be implemented in the new financial year 1 July 2019.

#### CONSENSUS:

1. That Pip Cox assess the feasibility of a completed link on one side of the road from the Lake Road round-a-bout to the Private Hospital and report back to the Committee at the June meeting.
2. That for the East Port Bowling Club accessible car park issue a joint two-pronged approach is implemented. Julie Priest and Pip Cox to approach the club seeking two additional accessible car parks in their private car park across the road. In tandem with creating an accessible route from the private car park to the Club.
3. That the Council Report for \$30k kerb ramp budget is presented at the March Council meeting.

#### **05.02.2 DA review of an Entertainment Complex (next to Kmart)**

The DA review was scheduled during December to January. Thank you to Bruce Gibbs, Julie Haraksin, Ian Irwin, Cheryl Dimmock and Sharon Beard who contributed to the review. The access concerns that were forwarded to the DA Planner for follow up with the Developer include:

- No drop off or taxi area;
- Concerns about pedestrian safety at the two drive-throughs;
- More accessible parking spaces required, located not along the main entry;
- Query if car park include lights indicating empty/full spaces;
- Concerns about the tiny size of the two lifts (1mx2m);
- No design of amenities at gym or ten pin bowling tenancies. Gym will require accessible shower;
- Concern if there are steps (17) up to the female toilets;
- Concerns about the distance between male and female toilets and route;
- Phil White advised the positioning of the accessible spaces in the cinema is a good distance from the screen;
- Cinema's 1 to 8 have a wall either side of the accessible seating area. Concerns as an accessible seat uses 1.5 seat width;
- The ramp which runs from ground to 3<sup>rd</sup> floor has a gradient 1:8, is non-compliant and incredibly steep;
- Fourth floor 160 seat venue access only via stairs or two tiny lifts; and
- Managers apartment has staircase and concerns under EEO that a person with a disability cannot apply for the job.

### **05.02.03 Accessible Parking Project**

A field excursion using the iPad to map the car parking spots will be organised in cooler months.

### **05.02.04 Changing Places Adult Change Table**

The 'Boundless' amenity is currently being manufactured. It is expected to be installed and open before the end of the financial year. A blue tile will be used on one wall and the back door similarly coloured blue as part of being a more dementia friendly colour palette.

### **05.02.05 Development of an Airport Access Guide**

Julie Priest has met with the new Airport Manager Peter Allen. By the middle of the year we will be able to take photos of the airport upgrade to include in the guide.

#### **CONSENSUS:**

That the development of the accessible access guide starts in June with the Access Committee.

### **05.02.06 Invitation to the 'Hands on History' exhibition launch**

The Access Committee were invited to the launch at 11am Wednesday 13 February at the Port Macquarie Library. The exhibition is part of Council's 12 month Dementia Friendly programme, funded by Dementia Australia.

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## **06 ACCESS TO NOBBY'S BEACH**

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Mr Edward Laming, resident and representative of Nobby's Beach walking community, addressed the Committee about his access concerns for the new stairs being installed at Nobby's Beach.

Eight residents were observers at the meeting in support of Mr Laming's concerns. He said the steep gradient of the stairs and having a central handrail do not conform to reasonable community expectations of access of utility and amenity. That it actively discriminates against community users who rely on the amenity and ease of access and for owners and dogs who rely on the current ease of access to the beach.

Council has classified this portion of the Coastal Walk as a Class 3 classification, Mr Laming advised he assessed it as a Class 2 classification.

He requested the maintenance and ongoing use of the existing steps and the existing path be maintained and for the Access Committee to oversee the existing track.

#### **CONSENSUS:**

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That the Access Committee noted Mr Laming's concerns and requested Director Watkins to advise the Committee of the outcome of her investigations into options for retaining and maintaining the existing pedestrian access. That the outcome of this investigation and feasibility to be reported back at the next Access Committee meeting.

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## **07 SOVEREIGN HILLS TOWN CENTRE - DISABILITY ACCESS**

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The Committee reviewed the plans of the Sovereign Hills Town Centre, noting that the DA has been approved and that this is for input into compliance of the Construction Certificate.

### **CONSENSUS:**

That the Access Committee recommended the following concerns be raised for the certifying compliance certificate to create a more inclusive facility:

- Clarify ramp access to the facility;
  - Recommend more accessible car parking spaces due to our demographics and that a path/walkway does not run through the middle of the shared zone of the parking spaces;
  - Accessible toilet complies to Australian Standards;
  - Size of lift, grab rails, braille signage complies to Australian Standards; and
  - Query lack of parking near the proposed medical centre – recommend footpath drop-off or permit zone on street parking with ramp access and walkway.
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## **08 GENERAL BUSINESS**

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### **08.01 PROPOSED KEW PARK LANDS**

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Mike Ipsen discussed the Kew Park Lands and that the concept design showed stairs in the path and this should be a zig-zag ramp. Sandra Wallace advised that this was a proposal by the Developer and in formative stages.

### **CONSENSUS:**

That the Developer's idea for the Kew Park Lands is monitored and if it reaches concept plan stage the Access Committee to have input into the design.

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### **08.02 TIMED DISABILITY PERMIT CAR PARKING**

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Bruce Gibbs advised that on a recent trip to the capital that North Sydney Council had a 2 hour limited accessible car parking zone. Bruce tabled a photo of the parking sign.

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**08.03 ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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Bruce Gibbs advised that he was making a personal submission about the proposed design of the Entertainment Complex, especially in regards to the 'Access & Traffic Report' that the developer used to calculate the number of car parking spaces.

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**08.04 SENSATIONAL SENIORS EXPO**

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Members were invited to attend Council's Expo between 9am to 2pm on Monday 18 February at Panthers auditorium.

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The meeting closed at 4:00pm.