

14 June 2017

All Abilities Consultative Committee
(Attn: Ms V. Richardson)
Private Bag 1000
ROSEBUD VIC 3939

Dear Ms Richardson

PROPOSED COUNCIL PLAN SUBMISSION: DECISION

Thank you for your submission on the proposed Council Plan 2017-2021, received 26 April 2017.

All submissions were considered by Council in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. The purpose of this letter is to notify you of Council's decision and the reasons for that decision.

The following advice is provided in response to the particular points the All Abilities Consultative Committee raised in its submission:

Promoting opportunities for people with disabilities in employment and as valued customers

Council supports the development of employment opportunities for all members of the community but in particular disadvantaged residents including those with disabilities. A tangible example of this is the new Peer Advocacy and Support position for a person with an intellectual disability within Youth Services, to help deliver disability specific programs.

Encouraging community resilience beyond (1) beach matting (2) changing places toilets and (3) the footpath strategy

The three projects (beach matting, changing places toilets, and the footpath strategy) noted in the Plan are examples only and not intended to be the full range of areas through which Council will encourage community resilience. Council's All Abilities Consultative Committee is actively involved in promoting inclusion, and identifying opportunities for people with disabilities to get involved in the community. The committee works across the spectrum of the Shire's Disability Action Plan, which includes:

- Physical and Built Environment;
- Transport and Logistics;
- Information and Communication;
- Support, Services and Programs;
- Education Awareness and Training;
- Housing; and

Providing advice and feedback and supporting Council to seek further input from people with disabilities in the community

Clearly articulate Council actions to facilitate community engagement, and ‘minimising the adverse impacts of health, welfare and safety of the community’ for residents with a disability

It is important to note that the Council Plan is the overarching document to guide Council; more detail in regards to specific actions will be found in unit plans and strategies. The All Abilities Consultative Committee will be actively involved in the consultation process for the new Disability Action Plan 2017-2021.

How will Council deliver ‘inclusive, functional and accessible places’?

Again, the Council Plan is the overarching document to guide Council. The strategies for achieving the objective of “*thriving, accessible and inclusive places to live, work and visit*” are set out in the draft Council Plan. More detail/specific mechanisms will be provided in the new Disability Action Plan. Suggest including additional strategy to further focus on the provision of accessible tourism within the Shire.

Add strategic objective under ‘Our Connectivity’: “support expanding accessible transport, accessible communication methods”

Again, the Council Plan is the overarching document to guide Council. Reference here is made to DAP. Mobility Maps, RECHARGE scheme, advocacy for improved accessible public transport through the AACC.

Include a strategy/strategic objective for disability under ‘Our Prosperity’ relating to employment, education and training

The community outcome “*Employment, education and training opportunities exist within the Mornington Peninsula Shire*” relates to all residents. To reinforce this, the change to the Council Plan below was made.

Include a strategic objective about residents with disability under ‘Our Wellbeing’

The Council Plan is the overarching document to guide Council. More detail in regards to specific actions will be found in unit plans and strategies.

What does “a self-determined, engaged and inclusive community is accessible to all residents” mean for people with disability?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme has been designed to increase choice and control for people with disabilities. The role of local government in this space will mainly be to ensure that the built environment and services we offer are accessible.

How is the Council going to “facilitate and promote connected and active lives” for people with disability?

The role of MetroAccess is designed to do this, through providing information, building capacity of people with disabilities to participate, increasing community awareness of the barriers that people with disabilities face, and educating community services about how to be more inclusive of people with disabilities.

Which major initiatives contribute to “Design and deliver well-planned townships with adequate capacity for housing, infrastructure, employment, business activity and recreational areas”?

The Council Plan is the overarching document to guide Council. More detail in regards to specific actions will be found in unit plans and strategies.

Does the Activity Centre Strategy include provision for various disabilities?

Council has to consider all abilities access when constructing or improving any infrastructure in line with the relevant legislation. The footpath construction strategy provides an example where the Shire includes the relevant Australian Standards into its infrastructure strategies.

Accessible public pool and hydrotherapy pool

All community facilities should be accessible to the broad community including those with disabilities

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council has indicated that it is a priority to consider the options available for an aquatic centre in Rosebud.

The community’s interest in having an aquatic centre in Rosebud was one of the main topics to emerge from the recent Your Peninsula 2021 consultation project.

The new Council has indicated it will consider the options available for an aquatic centre in Rosebud and recently received a briefing on the work undertaken on this project.

Following on-going consultation between officers and the Council in the coming weeks, more details will be released to the community.

Accessible playground

By engaging with the Shire’s playground planner, the AACC will work with Council to plan for accessible playgrounds later in 2017.

Which major initiatives, etc. contribute to “Improve disability access and access for the aged in homes, community places and infrastructure on the Mornington Peninsula”?

Access in homes is supported by the Home Maintenance team within the Aged and Disability Unit.

Access to the beach

Beach access is being targeted with the provision of beach matting. Mills Beach carpark and pathways to the lifesaving club have been completed. Mount Martha beach access pilot was a huge success over summer of 2016/2017 and plans to make it permanent are underway. Other patrolled beaches are being reviewed for accessibility and work is underway with lifesaving clubs to provide beach matting at more locations. Financial support for an accessible boardwalk at Point Leo has been provided to the Disabled Surfers Association. Provision of Marveloo – portable accessible toilet and change facility – has been provided by Shire at surf day events.

Consultation with the AACC

AACC will be actively involved in development of new Disability Action Plan, which should include provisions for consultation on other relevant plans (such as the Toilet Strategy, Transport, etc.).

The National Disability Scheme (NDS) should be included under “strategies that support our work” for ‘Our Place’

The position of Council in regards to the NDIS has not yet been determined but it is likely that we will have a strong advocacy role.

Add the word ‘accessible’ to “Advocate and promote enhanced and more frequent public transport services for the Mornington Peninsula” under ‘Our Connectivity’

Agree with adding the word ‘accessible’ to “Advocate and promote enhanced and more frequent public transport services for the Mornington Peninsula”.

Regarding “Improve informational and guidance signage to facilitate easier mobility in the Shire”, how will the signage be improved specifically and will it be suitable for people with disabilities;

Refer to Disability Action Plan.

Something should be added to the initiatives under ‘Our Connectivity’ to ensure pathways, crossings, etc. are accessible to all

The Council Plan is the overarching document to guide Council. More detail in regards to specific actions will be found in unit plans and strategies.

Add “for all citizens” to “Promote business participation in employment program opportunities”

Support the addition of “for all citizens” to “Promote business participation in employment program opportunities”.

Add “for all” to “Promote region as a year round destination”

Support the addition of “for all” to “Promote region as a year round destination”.

How is disability included in “increase employment opportunities and career pathways”?

The “increase employment opportunities and career pathways” strategy relates to all citizens. The Shire works with a diverse range of businesses to help grow employment across a broad section of jobs, which enhances employment outcomes for residents of varying needs and skills.

Is the value of a disabled employee covered in the workshops to enhance business capability? What is covered in these workshops?

The business workshops cover a wide variety of themes and topics. The Shire would be more than happy to work with the AACC to seek suggestions on topics

How are disabled visitors catered for in “providing a diverse range of high quality passive and active experiences”?

The Mornington Peninsula Shire and the Mornington Peninsula Regional Tourism Board (MPRTB) work closely with tourism businesses to ensure they have the highest possible standards to accommodate disabled visitors. This is evidenced by the region having one of the few Changing Places toilets in the state. The Shire and the MPRTB will be working with Tourism Victoria to offer all accessible tourism workshops for tourism operators.

Add strategic objective under ‘Our Wellbeing’: “Ensure disabled citizens feel valued and supported”

The Council Plan is the overarching document to guide Council. More detail in regards to specific actions will be found in unit plans and strategies.

Direct express bus runs from Rosebud – Frankston and from Rosebud to Hastings; extend train service on the Port Phillip side; more frequent and accessible transport

Public bus services are managed by the State Government. Advocacy for public transport improvements is part of the sustainable transport strategy. The Route 887 service is an express service that started last year to link community members from the Southern Peninsula (including Rosebud) to Frankston and it has been recently announced that additional early morning and late evening services will be provided. A cross peninsula bus from Hastings was trialed in 2010 which demonstrated that whilst there is merit for such a service, it is not sustainable financially.

We are currently developing a transport advocacy plan as one of the actions from the strategy. This advocacy plan includes pursuing more frequent public transport services, particularly for the Route 788 bus.

Whilst it would be great to see a train line to the Southern Peninsula, it is not in the long term planning or strategies for the state's public transport system. Our advocacy in the sustainable transport strategy provides an indication of what the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council are pursuing which will be outlined in the forthcoming transport advocacy plan.

Continue to implement beach matting

Mount Martha pilot will most likely become permanent, and plans are underway to provide matting at Dromana and Mills Beach.

Wheelchair accessible footpaths – Leon Avenue, Rosebud & Widen footpath access to Jetty Road playground

The Council Plan is the overarching document to guide Council. More detail in regards to specific actions will be found in unit plans and strategies.

Promotion of accessible restaurants, etc.

The Shire's Best Bites program provides an avenue to promote access for all businesses. Businesses participating in the program are included in the Best Bites Food Guide that is available on the Shire's website.

Main street hearing loop

The Council Plan is the overarching document to guide Council. More detail in regards to specific actions will be found in unit plans and strategies.

Greater youth facilities

Council is developing a network of Youth Resource Centres and will continue to improve their integration with other services.

Promotion of neighbourhood safe places

The promotion of Neighbourhood Safer Places will be undertaken through the Shire's Fire and Emergency Management Planning program.

Recreational facility (i.e. Pelican Park) for Rosebud;

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council has indicated that it is a priority to consider the options available for an aquatic centre in Rosebud.

The community's interest in having an aquatic centre in Rosebud was one of the main topics to emerge from the recent Your Peninsula 2021 consultation project.

The new Council has indicated it will consider the options available for an aquatic centre in Rosebud and recently received a briefing on the work undertaken on this project.

Following on-going consultation between officers and the Council in the coming weeks, more details will be released to the community.

Universal design standards for public and private business buildings;

Currently the *Building Act 1993* requires All Abilities Access to be provided in any new non-residential building within the building fabric, from the footpath level to all areas accessible to the public. Where Council replaces or refurbishes a footpath, it is designed to provide All Abilities Access to existing buildings wherever practicable. However there are overriding requirements for public footpaths that also need to be considered, such as maximum grades, tripping hazards, existing obstructing infrastructure (poles, post boxes, etc.). It is not considered necessary for a specific item of this nature to be included within the Council Plan, as there is adequate legislation covering this matter.

Increased street lighting

The issue of public lighting will be addressed by the forthcoming Community Safety Strategy.

An accessible path to be included in the 'Ride Safe strategy'

We are currently reviewing the Ride Safe Strategy and will take this feedback into consideration. It is intended that the reviewed strategy will work more closely with our Footpath Construction Strategy.

Accessible coastal paths where there are walking paths.

Planning and advocating for the construction of our key bay trail and inland trail missing links is featured within the Plan as a major initiative.

The following changes were made to the proposed Council Plan in response to the Committee's submission:

In the 'community outcomes' under 'Our Prosperity', after "*Employment, education and training opportunities exist within the Mornington Peninsula*", "***for all residents***" was inserted.

In the 'strategies' under the first 'Our Connectivity' 'strategic objective', after "*Advocate and promote enhanced and more frequent*", "***accessible***" [public transport services for the Mornington Peninsula] was inserted.

In the first 'strategic objective' under 'Our Connectivity' after "*Our advocacy and communications leads to improved mobility and connectivity*", "***accessible to all***" was inserted.

In the second 'strategic objective' under 'Our Connectivity' a major initiative to ***“Provide accessible coastal paths and bay trails to promote inclusive activities for people of all abilities and ages”*** was added.

In the second 'strategic objective' under 'Our Prosperity', a strategy to ***“Foster opportunities for accessible tourism to enhance the visitor experience for people of all abilities”*** was added.

In the 'major initiatives' under the first 'Our Prosperity' 'strategic objective', after *“Promote business participation in employment program opportunities”*, ***“for all citizens”*** was inserted.

In the 'major initiatives' under the second 'Our Prosperity' 'strategic objective', after *“Support the Mornington Peninsula Regional Tourism Board to promote the region as a year round destination”*, ***“for all”*** was inserted.

Under 'Our Wellbeing': a 'strategic objective' that ***“People with a disability feel valued and are supported”***, 'strategies' to ***“Facilitate and promote connection and inclusion to programs and services for people with a disability”*** and ***“Encourage participation of the All Abilities Consultative Committee members”*** and a 'major initiative' to ***“Support and implement strategies and outcomes in the Disability Action Plan”*** were added.

If you have any further enquiries about your submission, please do not hesitate to call me on **5950 1206**.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Connell
Manager – Corporate Planning and Projects