

Regional Accessibility Forum (RAF) Minutes

Monday 26 August 2024 – 10.00 am

**Tasman Council Chamber,
189 Queen Street, Richmond**

Present: Chair Campbell Rollo (Nelson City Council), Councillor Glen Daikee (Tasman District Council), Brett Husband (Public Transport Operations Supervisor, Nelson City Council), Elizabeth Perrone (CCS Disability Action), Lynda Scott (Independent Living with Disability), Kaye Halkett (Blind and Low Vision), Karen Wilson (Blind Citizens), Rodger Curry (Blind Low Vision NZ), Nic Gausel (Public Health), Pam Coltman (Grey Power), Maureen Keogan (Seniors), Elizabeth Dooley (Living Streets Aotearoa Inc.), Jane Murray (Transport Policy Advisor, Tasman District Council) Melanie Ellis (Tasman District Council), Viknesh Mahadevan (Community Partnerships Projects Coordinator), Ruth Roebuck (Nelson Festivals Trust), Rose McGrannachan (Nelson Festivals Trust), David Kemp (Independent)

Apologies: Kate Malcolm, Paul Shattock, Sally Mottram

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that everyone introduce themselves and the organisation they represent.

The Chair moved that the apologies listed above be accepted.

Seconded Councillor Daikee

CARRIED

2. Nelson Festival Trust – Nelson Arts Festival Accessibility

Ruth Roebuck is the General Manager of the Nelson Festivals Trust and operates the Nelson Arts Festival.

The Nelson Arts Festival celebrates its 30th birthday this year. Approximately 53,000 people attended last year and it is important that the price of the tickets and how people can actually engage is accessible. There are venues in Nelson, Richmond and Motueka - theatres, libraries, streets etc.

Rose McGannachan is the Head of Operations. The Nelson Arts Festival programme will be released on 30 August. They have an access programme co-ordinator who works with community members early in the year and trying to start this earlier.

The following accessible events information has been taken from the online Nelson Arts Festival Programme:

ALGA is an exploration of identity, desire, family and of being disabled and Pasifika. The show has everything built into the show. Seats are available on the stage, including disabled, audio description is built in, with NZSL interpreted throughout. This is at the Theatre Royal on Tuesday 29 October at 6.30 pm and runs for 65 minutes.

Be Like Billy? is NZSL interpreted, audio described, music operatic cabaret with a live band on stage. This is at the Theatre Royal on Thurs 24 and 25 October at 6.30 pm and runs for 70 minutes.

Pukupuka Talks 2024 include accessible housing for all, a panel poet and disability rights activist. These talks are available at various locations, including the Suter Art Gallery which will have hearing assisted technology. Dates are from Thursday 24 October to Wed 30 October. If you have thoughts or suggestions, please reach out to the team using this email address: access@nelsonartsfestival.nz

Abby Howells wrote a romance set in the Navy in the wake of World War II. Now 33, she returns to this tale of love loss, nautical trauma and deeply undiagnosed Autism in her hilarious Billy T Award winning comedy show. This is NZSL interpreted and at The Boathouse on Thursday 24 October at 8.00 pm and runs for 55 minutes.

Waka of Dreams: Punanga Pohewa is showing at the Refinery Arts space in Nelson. Lissy and Rudy Robinson-Cole are crochet extraordinaires. This new piece is surrounded by a pre-recorded audio description of the exhibition and a sensory wall which is a crochet panel that people can add to as the festival goes on and will then become part of the exhibition.

There are also some caption movies.

Feedback and comments from forum members included the following:

- We just want to be able to access the same information as everyone else. Thank you for the presentation, for the foresight and making the effort for making some of the arts festival accessible in many different ways. I love visual art and the theatre and just want access to the information that everyone else has – by audio described.
- Word and HTML are the preferred options for screen readers.
- Economic and well-being impact figures of the festival would be great to know.
- Request for a dedicated viewing area for disabled people, not just a platform. In the past there was a space, but over the years it has eroded - would like to have this again.
- In answer to a question, it was noted that there is a wheelchair lift that gives access to the stage at the Theatre Royal.

3. Lower Queen Street Bridge Replacement and Stormwater Upgrade

Amy Shattock of Stantec presented the proposed development and replacement of the Lower Queen Street Bridge and a proposed underpass as well. The bridge needs to increase in size from 14 metres to 48 metres. They acknowledge danger for pedestrians. No bus stops will be affected in Lower Queen Street, and to stop a prolonged closure,

there will be a bypass while it is being constructed. The bypass will be 200 metres long and have a 30km/hr speed limit. This is necessary as it is part of the Borck Creek drainage channel.

The project will take approximately 12 months for construction. It will begin at the beginning of 2025 with traffic moving to the bypass.

It was noted that ebikes entering the underpass will require good signage to slow down and watch for pedestrians, similar to the Trafalgar underpass.

Action: Ms Shattock to find out if the footpath under the bridge will be susceptible to flooding.

4. Councillors Update – Chair and Tasman District Councillor Glen Daikee

Chair noted – Nelson City Council has consulted on the Urban and Public Places Bylaw i.e. the sandwich boards. The recommendation going back to council is each business is allowed one curb side sign as long as there is a two-metre wide footpath.

Nelson Junction

- businesses are installing public toilets at the site.
- public transport access to Nelson Junction - review underway now that the Stoke-on-Demand service is no longer available.

Saxton Field

- just confirmed a new walkway from the old toilet block, behind the hockey turf to the athletics strip. This will initially be a gravel walkway (as the council has excess gravel), and the long term plan is for it to be concrete (in the 10 year plan).
- Tasman District Council are putting money into the all-inclusive play area. Ms Wilson and Mr Curry are on the working group to help ensure that all accessibility, including good seating, is considered.
- Ms Keogan noted that there are variety of seats be considered, some are for the places where people gather and other seats are just for a seat, to have a short rest.

Ms Halkett noted that it was heartening to hear the reports from both Councils as she has been advocating for years for safer pedestrian areas. She is thankful for recent years where there is so much greater awareness and work being done creating safe areas.

Mr Kemp noted how hard toilets are to find. The Chair noted the signage is not great however, they are looking at ways of adapting the signs to make them more accessible. It was also noted that the signs couldn't be replaced fully, due to the cost.

Chair noted they are still working on the feedback about the public toilets - this was delayed due to staff changes at the council, but there should be an update at the next forum.

Nelson City Council is doing an audit of the building at 1 Kinzett Terrace (Nelson Suburban Club/Nelson City Club) in July 2025 as part of the long term plan process.

Action: Chair and Ms Coltman to discuss access at 1 Kinzett Terrace.

Ms Marg Parfitt has retired and the Chair gave thanks for her contributions to the forum over the years. Paul Shattock will be the new Nelson City Council infrastructure contact for the forum.

Councillor Daikee noted that the depression in the footpath has now been fixed. There are 3,000 current jobs and it was noted that communication needs to be improved so that people know when the works will be done. Oakwoods, the retirement home, is also very happy this job has been completed.

The Richmond bus stop hub public toilets are located at the John Wesley Lane carpark.

The Tasman District Council building toilets are available to public who are visiting the Council building.

The Public Places bylaw submissions close on 27 August. Hearings are next month. There was a discussion around the various signage and that management of it needs to improve.

Councillor Daikee noted that seats have been ordered and they are on the work plan to install at Harriet Court.

5. Bridge to Better Project Nelson City – Update from Paul Shattock – Manager – Community Engagement, Nelson City Council

Karen Wilson welcomed any questions directly via email.

6. Terms of Reference - Chair

The Chair asked that the attached updated Terms of Reference be accepted.

Moved Chair

Seconded Karen

CARRIED

7. General Business

Brett Husband – Public Transport Operations Supervisor, Nelson City Council

- Bus timetable have been updated and were rolled out on 15 July for the Motueka and Wakefield lines.
- Analysis of remaining routes and proposed changes to those timetables continue.
- Public Transport Review - starting August - 1 year anniversary of the service, looking for feedback.

Mr Husband has been following up the issue of tilting buses with the bus provider as it can be quite dangerous. The drivers are currently able to use the tilting option however, it is preferred that they use the lower and raise option instead and so are investigating removing the option to tilt the buses, from the drivers.

Action: Mr Husband to see if hardcopy timetables can be made available on the buses, as they were previously.

Action: Mr Husband and Ms Perrone to catch up re shelves on buses.

Action: Mr Husband and Ms Scott to ride on the bus and trial the schedule.

Ms Wilson thanked Mr Husband for hooks on the backs of toilet doors - much appreciated.

Mr Kemp noted the Stepping Out programme.

The next A4A Forum is 25 November.

Meeting closed at 11:45 am