Chapter 11 Public toilets

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11.1 Introduction

1. This chapter outlines the following in the design of public toilets:
2. design and construction standards;
3. advice about satisfying assessment benchmarks in the planning scheme.
4. This chapter applies to stand alone buildings designed primarily as public toilets on Council-owned land, such as parks.

11.2 Location

Public toilet buildings are located:

1. near adjacent pedestrian paths, roads and facilities, with entrances facing onto most active space;
2. in an area highly visible from most directions;
3. in an area where there are activity generators (e.g. picnic facilities);
4. so that vegetation around the building is an appropriate type and size;
5. so that the buildings are responsive to crime prevention through environmental design principles.

11.3 Design standards

11.3.1 Building design

1. Unisex toilet facilities are desirable for areas identified for low use.
2. Gender-specific toilet facilities are desirable for areas of high use.
3. If 1 x cubicle is provided, it is a unisex toilet.
4. If more than 1 cubicle is provided, a minimum of 1 cubicle is designed to be accessible.
5. No screened lobby or any type of enclosed communal lobby is provided to public toilets.
6. Solid, fully enclosed buildings with a single common access are not appropriate.
7. Cubicles are self-contained including a handbasin and open directly onto public space.
8. If a cubicle is not large enough to accommodate handbasins (e.g. for ambulant facilities), the cubicle opens directly onto public space and handbasins are located outside in the public space.
9. If a handbasin is located outside a cubicle, it is not screened.
10. Provision of a translucent lightweight screened approach or handbasin lobby with continuous gaps to ground level is appropriate to ensure maximum visibility.
11. Direct entry to cubicle configuration ensures:
12. entry into a cubicle is to be through cubicle door only;
13. the vertical design plane is assessed to eliminate wherever possible ‘steps’ or ‘ladders’ that could aid access and provide the opportunity for people to climb.
14. Internal and external walls have a continuous gap of approximately 50mm–75mm at the bottom.
15. A permeable screen is incorporated between the top of all internal and external cubicle walls and doors and the underside of the roof to assist with ventilation.
16. Walls are solid and durable.
17. Sprung door closers incorporated into hinges or pivots are provided with a gap (75mm–300mm) to the underside of cubicle doors.
18. Roofing of a cubicle that opens directly onto a public space has generous overhang or a verandah.
19. All building finishes are robust, impact-resistant, weather-resistant, easily cleaned, graffiti-resistant and comply with relevant Australian Standards.
20. The floor of a public toilet:
21. is of a mid-to-dark colour to hide dirt and grime;
22. is easy to repair and maintain (e.g. broom-finished concrete);
23. is a resilient, hard surface conforming to the required Australian Standard;
24. is slip resistant;
25. slopes down to a drain, to avoid the accumulation of water inside.
26. Exterior and interior finishes and treatments are treated to minimise graffiti and vandalism.
27. If brick or concrete, interior and exterior walls are rendered and painted or treated with an anti-graffiti coating.
28. An exterior wall is a dark base colour.
29. Multi-coloured murals that are consistent with the surroundings, or treatments that vary the materials, colours and surfaces, are used to disrupt smooth, blank continuous surfaces on exterior walls.
30. Internal door faces have a protective anti-graffiti coating or stainless steel finish.
31. Lighting levels are consistent along the main path of travel and around the building.
32. Lighting is provided according to the use of the facility (i.e. daytime only or 24 hours).
33. External lighting meets the requirements of Category P3 of AS/NZS 1158.3.1:2005 Lighting for roads and public spaces - Pedestrian area (Category P) lighting - Performance and design requirements.
34. External lighting does not adversely impact on adjacent buildings and activities.
35. External finishes do not generate obtrusive glare and reflection for surroundings.
36. If a public toilet facility is to be used at night, internal and external lighting is provided.
37. Skylights are used where possible for natural light.
38. The minimum illumination level inside each toilet cubicle meets the relevant Australian Standards.
39. Light fittings are energy efficient, high mounted and vandal resistant.

11.3.2 Fixtures and fittings

1. Stainless steel basins with vandal-resistant fixings and stainless steel or chromed brass drainage pipes.
2. Porcelain fixtures are not used.
3. If the risk of vandalism is high, stainless steel water closet pans are provided with an integrated seat and vandal-resistant fixings.
4. If the risk of vandalism is low, separate toilet seats (PVC or porcelain) can be used.
5. Drainage pipes under handbasins are concealed within a stainless steel enclosure with vandal-proof fixings that is able to be accessed for maintenance.
6. Supply and drainage pipework is concealed in ducts where possible.
7. Urinals are not installed.
8. Tapware is robust and vandal proof, fitted with spring shut-off valve function to regulate water consumption.
9. Tapware replacements are readily available from major manufacturers.
10. All plumbing fixtures and fittings are selected, installed and managed with water conservation as a priority.

11.3.3 Other design considerations

1. A continuous path of travel is provided from a toilet facility to source of demand consistent with AS 1428.1-2009/Amdt 1-2010 Design for access and mobility - General requirements for access - New building work.
2. Directional signage considers use by people with vision impairments in accordance with Disability Standards (Access to Premises – Building), Part D4 – which includes the use of braille characters on all signs.
3. The designation (gender use and mix) is clearly signed in language and symbol.
4. Shrubs and garden-bed species are selected and maintained to grow to a maximum of 700mm high.
5. Tree species are selected and maintained to eliminate branching and foliage below 2m high to maintain sight lines to the building.
6. Vegetation selection considers:
7. reduced future garden and building maintenance;
8. future root invasion of footings and pipes.
9. Low-level landscaping is provided along walls to provide a buffer.
10. Exposed cisterns are avoided.
11. Door hardware:
12. is robust and vandal proof;
13. replacements are readily available from major manufacturers;
14. identifies when a toilet cubicle is in use.
15. Clothing hooks are not provided in ambulant.
16. Mirrors, if provided, are stainless steel unless specifically requested otherwise.
17. Toilet roll holders are robust and secure.
18. Basins with flat surrounds also serve as shelves.
19. Shelves are not provided.
20. If the risk of vandalism is low, and paper towel dispensers are not provided, a sensor-activated hand dryer can be installed.

11.3.4 Accessible toilets

An accessible public toilet is designed in accordance with AS 1428.1-2009/Amdt 1-2010 Design for access and mobility - General requirements for access - New building work and includes:

1. a handbasin inside the cubicles;
2. grab rails secured to the structural frame or solid block work.