



COUNCIL POLICY

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE POLICY

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Subsequent Amendments:

Date, authorisation and reference to aspects amended

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1 INTRODUCTION

The provision of public conveniences provides a form of infrastructure necessary for the enjoyment of the city by visitors and residents. They can make a significant impact upon the comfort of individuals and families who visit public spaces in the city and their perception of the city as a desirable place to visit. Changing demographics and human activity in the city and provision of these facilities in private businesses (ie hotels and shopping precincts) will impact upon the demand for public conveniences. The necessity to provide clean, accessible and safe environment that are comfortable for the users, require that high standards of hygiene and maintenance are achieved.

1.1 Scope

This policy is intended to cover the provision of all public conveniences in the City in which the Corporation has some level of involvement.

1.2 Purpose

The policy enables the main issues impacting on the provision of public conveniences to be addressed. Application of the policy requires the following hierarchy of decisions:

NEED – this is determined by the Corporate directions for the City as set by already established planning documents. Unless an activity (and therefore the users) has been identified as being a desirable outcome for the City in a particular area then the provision of public facilities can not be supported.

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SIZE AND LOCATION – once a need has been defined the basic physical requirements for satisfying public health and environmental issues can be identified.

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IMAGE – knowing the intended users, size and approximate location the social and urban design aspects can be addressed to ensure community values are reflected in the facility.

1.3 Definitions

Public Convenience - is a building specifically catering for the physiological needs of humans so that normal bodily functions can be performed in a timely manner.

Need - is the demand for public conveniences, which arises from people due to the nature of an activity.

Image - is the perception that people have of the City as a result of them having to use a public convenience provided by the Council.

1.4 Legislative and Corporate Requirements

As owners of the assets in the public realm, responsibility to maintain public conveniences is reflected in Section 532 of the Local Government Act. It should be noted that as owners of the public realm, Section 20 of the Public and Environmental Health Act identifies the adequate provision of facilities for the purpose of sanitation or personal hygiene as a requirement.

The Council also regulates certain behaviour and activities in or near public toilets through Bylaw 8.

This Policy is to be implemented in conjunction with other relevant Corporate Policies and Strategies including the:

- Corporate Plan
- City of Adelaide Plan
- Social Development Strategy
- Disability Access Action Plan
- Pedestrian Strategy
- Park Lands Management Strategy
- Environmental Management Strategy

2 POLICY STATEMENTS

2.1 Need

Objective: *To encourage desirable development, events and activities in the City by ensuring the adequate provision of Public conveniences as a service for visitors to the City to make their stay enjoyable.*

2.1.1 Public conveniences will be provided to support desirable activities involving the consumption of food and beverages:

- informal dining in **Park Lands** where facilities for barbecues, picnics, are provided
- outdoor dining in **Park Lands, squares, street precincts** –toilets will be encouraged in the host building where possible and public conveniences will only be provided where there are a large number of small businesses.
- approved drinking of alcohol – licensed premises are required to provide toilets but a large concentration of such premises will mean more people in the public realm who may need a toilet due to the physiological impact of alcohol. Such areas are **Hindley St., Rundle St East., Gouger St.**

2.1.2 Public conveniences will be provided to support desirable activities where people are encouraged to stay for long periods in excess of three hours.

- mixed retail shopping in **Hutt Street, Melbourne Street, O’Connell Street and Rundle Mall/Currie Street** where there are a large number of small retail businesses which are not big enough to provide facilities individually
- entertaining such as circuses, concerts, public celebrations in **Bonython Park, Ellis Park, Elder Park**
- recreational activities such as playgrounds, recreation lakes, public sports in the **parklands and Nth Adelaide Golf Course.**
- tourist attractions (including special events) in **Victoria Park, Veale Gardens and Elder Park,**

2.1.3 Facilities will only be provided in areas where the desired activities are designated in planning strategies endorsed by Council.

2.1.4 Facilities will be open during the hours of operation that suit the activities being supported.

2.1.5 Council will ensure that adequate public conveniences are provided to support desired activities but will only provide such facilities itself when there are no other alternatives.

2.2 Size and Location

Objective: *To maintain the City as a safe and healthy environment for intense public use.*

2.2.1 Public conveniences will be located to best serve the activities they are intended to support.

2.2.2 Permanent facilities will only be provided where the activities are regular and will generate sufficient patronage.

2.2.3 The location of permanent facilities must meet Council's Urban Design policy guidelines.

2.2.4 The size of facilities must be adequate for the number of people expected to use the public conveniences without over crowding or undue waiting times.

2.2.4 Facilities will be designed for the particular needs of the target patrons having regard to social groupings such as families.

2.3 Image

Objective: *To provide facilities that are pleasant to visit and are non-discriminatory.*

2.3.1 Facilities must be designed and maintained to a quality of presentation that is consistent with the public profile of the facility as agreed by Council.

2.3.2 All toilets provided for the public must be accessible for all age groups and for people with disabilities.

2.3.3 All public conveniences will be clearly identified and locatable through directional signage.

2.3.4 Through design and maintenance all public conveniences will be non-threatening and safe to use.

2.3.5 The need for individual privacy will be respected.