

The Hon. Ron Hoenig MP

Leader of the House in the Legislative Assembly
Vice-President of the Executive Council
Minister for Local Government



Your Ref: D24/046692
Our Ref: A927901

Dr Amanda Cohn MLC
Inquiry Chair
Portfolio Committee No. 8 – Customer Service
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Via email: portfoliocommittee8@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Dr Cohn,

Thank you for your letter requesting key issues regarding public toilets for the local government portfolio that the committee may consider during the inquiry into public toilets. I acknowledge the terms of reference for the Inquiry and appreciate the committee's interest in this matter.

Local councils have the capacity and autonomy to make decisions around provision and maintenance, funding, and regulation of public toilets based on the needs of their local community. While there is no legislative obligation on local councils to provide public toilet facilities, community expectation is that councils provide public toilets on the community land they manage.

Councils vary in how they plan for, design, and maintain public toilets due to their varying capacity and capability. When councils do provide public toilets, they must be designed and constructed to meet relevant Australian Standards and the National Construction Code. These include standards relating to design, accessibility, public health and sanitation requirements (via water and sewerage infrastructure). Councils must also meet relevant asset management and compliance frameworks.

The Government notes that the increase in women taking up community sports like soccer, cricket and rugby league has led to more pressure on Councils to deliver more female change rooms in public parks and ovals, which are often delivered alongside public toilet facilities. While Councils and their communities must lead the work to identify facilities to be upgraded, the Government has invested \$200 million in grants to make sporting facilities more inclusive, safe and accessible for women and girls.

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Gibbs, Director, Policy and Sector Development at the Office of Local Government on _____ or by email at _____

Yours sincerely

16 OCT 2024

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