

SUBJECT: PUBLIC TOILETS ATTACHED TO PUBLIC HALLS

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services

Council Meeting Date: 16 June 2015

Purpose:

This report seeks Council's view in relation to both a request by the Ubobo Progress Association Inc. for Council to pay towards the cost of cleaning the hall toilets which is open to the public and the wider question of the use of Community Hall toilets as public toilets.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council advise:

1. The Ubobo Progress Association Inc., Nagoorin Progress Association Inc., the Builyan/Many Peaks Community Development Committee and the Lowmead Hall Committee that it is prepared to contribute \$1,500 per year towards the cleaning costs of the Public toilets at their halls subject to satisfactory signage and an agreement on opening hours; and
2. The Calliope CWA that it no longer requires their toilets as public toilets and will cease to clean them at the end of the calendar year.

Background:

Attached is a list of all known halls where adjoining toilets maybe used as public toilets. Given the fact that the majority of these public toilets are being cleaned by Council staff or contractors, the remainder of the report will cover just five halls:

1. Nagoorin Hall,
2. Ubobo Hall,
3. Builyan Hall,
4. Lowmead Hall, and
5. Calliope CWA Hall.

Because I am not totally familiar with the three Boyne Valley hall toilets I recently visited each hall and below are some pictures of that trip.







The first photo is the Nagoorin Hall toilet which was partly funded by Council. It has no public toilet sign on it although it is open 24 hours a day and can be used by the travelling public if they know it is there.

The next two photos are the toilet sign and the toilet at the Ubobo Hall. In addition to the big toilet sign on the toilet block there is also a big toilet sign on the tank and therefore there is obviously a toilet at this location. This toilet was funded by the Jupiter's Gaming Fund. Despite the signage, when I went there at 7.45am the toilet doors were locked.

The next two photos are of the Builyan Hall. Interestingly while there is a public toilet sign, it is pointing out of town rather than in the direction of the hall, however as long as you know that all of these directional signs are wrong you can find the hall and the toilets are open 24 hours a day although there is no signage out the front of the hall that there are public toilets out the back.

The last two photos are of the Lowmead hall signage and toilets. The toilets have adequate signage and they are not locked and hence open 24 hours a day.

Public hall committees preform a vital role in maintaining these community hubs and if possible Council should try to support them wherever possible. While I frankly question how much public use any of these toilets would actually attract, a small contribution to these committees would be appreciated by them. It is difficult to recommend either a Council contractor or an employee be engaged to undertake any cleaning given the

locations and the problems of a lack of adequate supervision and therefore the recommendation is for a small monetary contribution to assist with cleaning and consumables.

Council currently uses a contractor to clean Futter Creek public toilet. There is no intention to close that toilet, however to arrive at a sum for any contribution it is worth considering the cost to Council of cleaning that toilet because it is a remote public toilet. Based on the current contract, the cost to clean those toilets is a little over \$1,900 per annum and there would be some consumables above that amount. The figure of \$1,500 is an arbitrary figure which tries to reflect a reasonable contribution without being a commercial rate. The rate also reflects the fact that while the toilet at Futter Creek is solely used as a public toilet, the four toilets discussed in this report are principally hall toilets which have a secondary role as public toilets.

The recommendation is based on any or all of these halls agreeing to signage identifying the toilets as being public toilets and agreeing on times that they are open to the travelling public.

The other public toilet that needs to be discussed is the Calliope CWA hall toilets. The CWA has been more than happy for their toilets to be used as public toilets for many years and Council should be very appreciative of this community minded stance. However with the rejuvenation of Bunting Park which is in close proximity of the CWA Hall it is difficult to argue that the CWA toilets should remain as "Public Toilets". Council could give notice to the Calliope CWA of a change in policy so that there is a transition and hopefully limiting the impact on the group.

Consideration:

Council could maintain the status quo, however as the issue has been raised by the Ubobo Progress Association a decision does need to be made and for consistency that decision should equally apply to all halls in the Boyne Valley and at Lowmead.

Communication and Consultation (Internal/External):

Council officers have provided information on public halls and who cleans the various toilets.

Legal Environmental and Policy Implications:

Nil.

Financial and Resource Implications:

If the recommendation is adopted and taken up by hall committees, it will have a \$6,000 a year impact on the budget which at this stage has not been included in the 2015/16 draft budget. Council has a public amenities budget and this amount would probably be costed against that budget.

Commentary:

Nil.

Summary:

Nil.

Attachments:

1. Table of Public Toilets attached to Public Halls

Tabled Items:

1. Nil.

Report Prepared by: Manager Contracts & Facilities

Public Toilets - Attach 1 - Community Hall Public Toilets [Open Document](#)
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