

Public Toilet Design Guidelines

Last updated: 16 July 2025

Review Date: 16 July 2026 (annually, or on needs basis)

Responsible Officer: Parks Officer

Toilets on Reserve Land

QLDC aims to balance the benefits of providing public toilets with the long-term costs of ongoing servicing and replacement. Provision of public toilets is essential for public and environmental health and an important component to park development. They enable increased use of public open space by allowing people to spend longer within the reserve than they otherwise could have. This is particularly important for families with young children, seniors, and those with specific access needs.

Purpose of the guidelines

New public toilet facilities come at a significant construction and ongoing maintenance cost for QLDC. The purpose of the guidelines is to provide structured advice to help select suitable public toilets for the areas in which they will be placed and for the demand they will receive. The aim is for this document to help narrow the field of toilet selection options, so that the preferred proposed toilets can then be discussed with a QLDC Parks Officer. This will ensure long-term benefits for the public who use the toilets, as well as the ratepayers who fund their servicing and maintenance.

Aiming for consistency across the district

Consultants, designers and project managers often ask QLDC Parks Officers for guidance on toilet suppliers and QLDC preferences. This document aims to consolidate the ad hoc conversations into a single source.

Existing suitable example:



Marine Parade



Guidelines and design checklist

The following criteria have been developed as a guide to help with the process of choosing public toilets in the Queenstown Lakes District.

SITING AND LOCATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other existing toilets in close proximity Not located close to residential properties Area has a high level of visitation Vehicles can access for regular servicing and maintenance Close to an electric power source Co-located with other amenities and structures e.g. water fountains, bus stops and play areas Protected from wind, frost and sun Alternative sites considered and investigated
SAFETY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) requirements e.g. visibility of the toilet structure, site lines maintained Area of high activity to encourage informal surveillance People can move easily near and around the toilets
MAINTENANCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water source is accessible for plumbing Ability to be winterised if required

- Insulated wiring (*district-wide requirement*)

ACCESSIBILITY

- One 'All Access' toilet per toilet block minimum
- One baby change table per toilet block minimum
- Accessible to all user abilities and wheelchair/pushchair friendly
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MATERIALS AND AESTHETICS

- Durable materials that are easy to maintain and replace
- Materials and colours are sympathetic to the local landscape, cultural heritage, reserve character
- Design enhances the appeal of the natural environment
- In context of other structures within the vicinity
- Potential for vandal deterrent coating treatments

MANUFACTURER

- New Zealand or Australian designed and made e.g. meet AUSNZ Standards
(*Other manufacturers may be considered if they meet all other guideline criteria and there is sound justification, such as economies of scale when purchasing*)

PARTS AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Parts are manufactured in New Zealand or Australia and easy to source
- Model is planned for future manufacturing and not being discontinued
- Footprint of toilets only occupies as much space in the reserve as functionally necessary
- Water saving devices considered
- Maximum use of natural light and ventilation