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MIDDLETON BEACH PUBLIC TOILET CONSULTATION SUMMARY

The community was invited to provide feedback on the safety, amenity, and accessibility on the Middleton Beach Public Toilets and Changerooms. Feedback was collected during a two-week period, 8-22 November via an online and hardcopy survey. 85 submissions were received, with the majority of respondents aged between 30-65 with varied frequency of facility use.

Safety:

- 85% of respondents valued cleanliness in a public toilet facility the most, followed by safety (47%), accessibility (43%) and privacy (40%).
- Majority of respondents (75%) feel safer using a split gender toilet configuration (separate male and female toilet entrances). There was support have unisex facilities but as an option or in addition to a split gender arrangement.
- Respondents feel safer using individual shower cubicles than open shower arrangements.

Respondent comments:

"I don't think all toilets/ change rooms should be unisex. If there was an opportunity to provide one or two unisex toilets/ change rooms that would be a better option."

"Unisex toilets & Changerooms are dangerous separate female & male are much safer for everyone"

"Please keep female change rooms, toilets and showers separate from male, and provide unisex/disabled facilities for people who need these."

"Please ensure that a safe place for our teens to get changed and shower while waiting for their parents to collect them after beach days with friends."

Amenity:

Overall, more than half of the respondents (56%) were generally satisfied with the public toilet and change facilities at Middleton Beach, noting that small improvements could be made. Manjimup public toilets were mentioned as a precedent for good toilet design. Manjimup public toilets and Frenchman Bay were also noted as good design for universal access.

The top four improvements included

1. Family change facilities (58%)
2. Improved lighting (43%)
3. More external change space (includes hooks and bench seating) (35%)
4. Lockers for public hire (34%)

"Great example of public toilets - Manjimup - Giblett St - no touch surfaces, sensor for hand soap, water and hand air dryer, high quality stainless finishes, dark surfaces to deter graffiti, easy to maintain and clean."

Although expanding the existing building footprint is out of scope, it should be noted many additional comments related to the need for public amenity in this area, for example:

“These facilities are not coping with the expanding use especially early in the morning. Over the past 5 years I have seen a marked increase in the number of early morning swimmers...”

“Given the amount of money spent on enhancement of the Middleton Beach & on other sporting/recreational facilities, it is difficult to understand the City's lack of action on this essential facility...”

“The project is a waste of time, just a band aid solution without addressing the main problem of lack of space.”

“I have to say, that it still befuddles me that the City obtained over \$10million in funding for the Middleton Beach enhancement project, yet the public facilities were ignored in this...I am so very grateful for the hot showers, but honestly, the lack of space has become the key issue for me personally...”

Accessibility:

- 25% of respondent would like to see improved accessibility to and within the public facilities and suggested the following:
 - Improved signage
 - larger than standard UAT
 - adult change table
 - sliding door or automatic opening
- 69% of respondents would use a unisex change facility (includes toilet amenity).
- There were repeated comments for lower/child friendly basins and change table.

Respondent Comments:

“It is easy to make it all unisex then everyone feels comfortable there. It helps parents of kids who are a different sex and it helps people who are trans and or non-binary to feel welcome and safe.”

“See Manjimup facilities, unisex opening directly to the outside are safer, more efficient. Most events don't separate the sexes with the hire toilets, people are now used to this configuration.”

“Middleton needs a disabled changing area just like the one near due south. No need for more toilets and showers there are plenty in the area.”

Configuration

The community was asked to provide feedback on the ratio of toilets vs showers.

- Unisex facilities were most requested to be reviewed with 38% of respondents wanting to see more unisex change space to cater for parents and gender diverse, followed by 26% of respondents requesting unisex toilets (26%) and showers (22%).
- Although 27 respondents selected more female showers and less female toilets, 12 respondents selected there should be no change to the ratio of female showers and toilets. This was a similar response for the dedicated men's facilities

Next Steps

A design consultant has been engaged to prepare a concept design for the refurbishment of the Public Toilets.

Construction of the works are expected to commence and be completed in the 2024.