

ITEM 3. PADDINGTON AUTOMATED PUBLIC TOILET – SCOPING REPORT**FILE NO: S125900****SUMMARY**

This report outlines the project scope for an Automated Public Toilet (APT) to be installed on the public footpath at the junction of Oxford Street and William Street, Paddington.

Council endorsed the Public Toilet Strategy in April 2014. The strategy assessed the supply and demand for public toilets and recommended additional toilets at key locations to enhance coverage of the public toilet network, and improve availability and access to public toilets.

The proposed facility is the standard unisex accessible JCDecaux Cox model APT. The unit will be relocated under the existing JCDecaux Street Furniture Contract no. 9734, which includes the supply, installation and maintenance of the APT. The unit will be reused from a Circular Quay location made redundant by the light rail project. A portion of an existing garden bed will be reduced to provide space for the installation of the APT opposite the intersection of Oxford and William Streets in Paddington.

The proposed location will provide public toilet access for pedestrians and cyclists using Oxford Street and people visiting local shops and businesses. The proposed operational time of the APT is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The unit includes an automated sliding door that opens after a programmed interval to prevent loitering and antisocial use. The unit provides a baby change table and ample space for people using prams and mobility aids. An automated self-contained unit provides safe access, security and hygiene at a lower cost than constructing a new custom-built facility.

Consultation for the Paddington location was undertaken in 2015 with key stakeholders, including local business owners and Woollahra Municipal Council. The City undertook a process of further community consultation with local residents and businesses during June 2017. The City received no objections from both consultation processes.

In addition to the proposed Paddington location, the project is investigating other potential locations for APTs at Kings Cross, Newtown and East Sydney. Consultation with stakeholders regarding these potential locations is ongoing. These will be the subject of subsequent reports to Council once the exact locations have been confirmed.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) endorse the installation of the Paddington APT unit in the location described in the subject report, and as shown in Attachment A to the subject report, for the purpose of proceeding with design development, relevant planning approvals, documentation and tender for construction works; and
- (B) note the financial implications detailed in Confidential Attachment B to the subject report.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Schematic Design and Photomontage Presentation

Attachment B: Financial Implications (Confidential)

(As Attachment B is confidential, it will be circulated separately from the agenda paper and to Councillors and relevant senior staff only)

BACKGROUND

1. The City's Public Toilet Strategy 2014 identified Oxford Street as an area of high demand for public toilets without adequate provision. The nearest public toilets are located within the Paddington Public Library and are only available during library opening hours.
2. A 2015 feasibility study confirmed the viability of the Oxford Street location for an APT. Locations were assessed against criteria that included physical requirements (eg, space, services availability, access, etc.) and site suitability (eg, level of passive surveillance, visibility, and proximity to schools, residences, and outdoor dining and key demand areas).
3. Three other locations for APTs were identified in the Public Toilet Strategy, however, these require further investigation to determine their suitability. These locations are:
 - (a) Darlinghurst Road/William Street, Kings Cross;
 - (b) King Street, Newtown; and
 - (c) relocation of the existing facility at Museum Café, Hyde Park to William Street, East Sydney.
4. The unit features an automated sliding door that opens automatically after a programmed interval to prevent loitering and antisocial use. Automated cleaning processes maintain cleanliness and hygiene. Other features of the unit include:
 - (a) hand basin;
 - (b) hand dryer;
 - (c) baby change table;
 - (d) self-cleaning pan and floor;
 - (e) fault and usage reporting;
 - (f) emergency sensors and security intercom; and
 - (g) programmable operating and door opening times.
5. *Sustainable Sydney 2030* is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following *Sustainable Sydney 2030* strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 5 - A Lively and Engaging City Centre – the new amenities will support visitation to the area for commerce, culture and recreation.
 - (b) Direction 9 - Sustainable Development, Renewal and Design - this project will address environmental targets listed in the City's Environmental Management Plan and *Sustainable Sydney 2030* vision. The proposed APT will reuse an existing facility, soon to be made redundant by the construction of the light rail.

Organisational Impact

6. The facility is an existing APT that will be relocated from Circular Quay. The existing arrangements under JCDecaux Contract No. 9734 for the maintenance and management of this facility will continue at the new location.

Risks

7. A Heritage Impact Statement will be undertaken with Council's heritage specialists and the Heritage Council of NSW.
8. Site surveys have been undertaken to locate existing site services and ground conditions, thus minimising the risk of clashes and services relocations.
9. The automated access systems are designed to deter antisocial use. The operational times of the facility can be programmed to suit the site conditions.

Social / Cultural / Community

10. The amenities provide accessible toilet facilities in a popular location, which will support walking, cycling and public transport use, and reduce incidents of public urination.
11. There will be no loss of parking.

Environmental

12. The installation will reuse an existing facility made redundant by the light rail works.
13. One (1) existing tree (*Celtis Australis* – Nettle tree), which was planted in September 2016, will be relocated by City staff within the surrounding garden bed prior to the installation of the APT.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

14. There are sufficient funds in the current year capital budget and future year forward estimate. Current cost estimates and financial implications are detailed in Confidential Attachment B.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

15. *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* – the City has a responsibility to ensure, as far as practicable, that people with disabilities have the same rights to access services and utilities, including public toilets.
16. *Local Government Act 1993* – under the Act, a council's charter is to provide adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively.
17. *Roads Act 1993* – approvals and consent of the applicable roads authority are required to install or erect a structure on the footpath of a public road.

18. Attachment B contains confidential information which, if disclosed, would:
- (a) confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business; and
 - (b) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.
19. Discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest because it would compromise Council's ability to negotiate fairly and commercially to achieve the best outcome for its ratepayers.

CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES

20. Current program dates are:
- (a) Community Consultation June 2017 (complete)
 - (b) Development Application Lodgement August 2017
 - (c) Development Application Approval November 2017
 - (d) Installation and Commission January 2017

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

21. Consultation was undertaken in 2015 with key stakeholders for the Paddington location. These included local business owners, Woollahra Municipal Council, Three Saints Square Project, Paddington-Darlinghurst Community Working Group and authority stakeholders who are unanimously supportive of the proposal.
22. The City consulted local residents and businesses in the area in June 2017. A total of 57 letters were sent out with no responses received.
23. The City of Sydney also consulted with the community on sydneyyoursay.com.au. The webpage recorded 60 views with no comments made.
24. Consultation with key stakeholders regarding the other potential locations in Kings Cross, Newtown and East Sydney is ongoing. Results of the consultation will be included in future reports to Council.

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