



FoCC



Friends of Canadian Corridor Incorporated
No: A0097535B ABN: 65 669 025 773

25/06/2023

Submission re: City of Ballarat Draft Public Toilet Strategy

The Friends of Canadian Corridor welcome the opportunity to provide input into the City of Ballarat municipal-wide Public Toilet Strategy.

The Friends agree with the stated aims of the strategy:

The Strategy will:

- *Establish a vision to provide high quality, inclusive and accessible public toilets that are safe, clean and cater for the needs of all residents, workers and visitors to the City of Ballarat.*
- *clarify the City of Ballarat's role in the provision of public toilets.*
- *provide guidelines for the design, location and fit out of public toilets.*
- *set out a strategic framework to guide planning for upgrades, installations and recommendations for changes to existing facilities, and*
- *identify opportunities for improving operational efficiencies.*

The background paper identifies three localities where public toilets are absent namely, Mt Clear, Mt Helen and Warrenheip.

The Mt Clear and Mt Helen areas have experienced a significant increase in recreational visitors since the establishment of the Woowookarung Regional Park 2016.

Associated with the Park are new trails and recreational sites such as:

- The Dementia Friendly Forest and Sensory Trail
- The Bunny Trail
- The Mount Clear Mountain Bike (MTB) Trail Head
- Grasstree Nature Trail
- The Lookout
- Trails in Grasstree Creek and Pennyweight Gully, Sailors Gully, Canadian Springs, and Penny Leaf Trail. Most of these new sites are in the Mount Clear area.

All of these new recreation and visitor sites have come into existence since the CoB Open Space Plan was prepared in 2008 and the last Toilet Plan in 2015.

The number of visitors is growing exponentially. The Dementia Trail has recorded 34000 visits and the Grasstree Nature Trail 15000 visits each in just two years. The Mt Clear MTB trails have registered over 33000 visits in four years. The Bunny trail has just opened and is already proving popular.

There are toilets in the Mt Clear Recreation Reserve that are only open when the controlling sporting clubs are present. These facilities may provide an opportunity for future public access.

The FoCC would like to see:

- The provision of toilets at or near the Recreation Reserve / Bunny Trail / Canadian Creek Trail / MTB Trail head area in Mt Clear.
- The provision of toilets near the Dementia Forest and Sensory Trail in the Elsworth St / Katy Ryans Rd area. The purpose of the Trail is to encourage not only people living with Dementia but people of all abilities. This is a fantastic Ballarat visitor point and it is currently let down by the very item people living with disability worry about; "Access to Toilets"

The Dementia Forest and Sensory Trail is on The Woowookarung Regional Park and is managed by Parks Victoria. It could be seen as their problem alone. However, the FoCC believes that as Ballarat is a "Compassionate" City the Council should take the initiative and identify the Trail as a suitable toilet site for able and disabled visitors. The possibility for a shared project between the Council, Parks Victoria and the community would have a good chance of unlocking funding. Toilets at the Dementia Trail area should have disability access and a change room. The current toilet "changing place" provision at the North gardens or Victoria Park may be a model for the Dementia Trail.

The FoCC would welcome the opportunity to further explain and clarify our request.

Yours sincerely

Jeff Rootes
FoCC Secretary