



**Legislative Assembly** for the  
**Australian Capital Territory**

Standing Committee on Transport  
and City Services

# Submission Cover Sheet

## Inquiry into the provision of municipal services in Canberra

Submission number: 028

Submitter: The Parks Stage 2 Executive Committee

Date authorised for publication: 29 January 2026

## **SUBMISSION ON PUBLIC TOILET FACILITIES FOR RED HILL ACT**

*Executive Committee, The Parks Stage 2, Red Hill (Units Plan 15853)*

The Executive Committee for The Parks Stage 2 Red Hill represent a complex of three multi-story buildings with a total of 68 Units. We are pleased for the opportunity to contribute to the current inquiry into the provision of municipal services in the ACT and appreciate the strategic foresight of the Legislative Assembly in this matter.

### **Rapidly-growing precinct in need of facilities**

The Parks Red Hill (5,000 m<sup>2</sup> in area), is a rejuvenated area that was previously degraded public housing. It is now a precinct of six parks with two large strata complexes and numerous surrounding townhouses.

There is a critical need for a public toilet facility in this rapidly-growing precinct. However, we have received numerous expressions of concern from owners and residents in the complex that the location initially proposed for the facility raises a number of issues – it is both not an ideal location and it bypasses far better potential locations in the immediate precinct.

This issue is crucial to consideration by the Committee of two of its major terms of reference – the maintenance and upkeep of public spaces such as playgrounds, local shops and verges; and the geographic spread of active travel infrastructure, parks and playgrounds.

### **Potential negative impacts**

Amongst the concerns that residents have expressed is that the facility will visually impact on the leafy outlook onto Lady Nelson Park, that the new Units opposite the Park will overlook the toilets and that the building sited adjacent to the unlit playground will tend to attract vandalism and other anti-social behaviour, similar to that already exhibited in the precinct, in an area frequently used by local children.

### **PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE**

We would welcome public toilets in the shopping precinct closer to the shops. Our suggestion is to locate the proposed toilet block on the right hand side of the steps (looking from the shops to the main park of Lady Nelson Place) that lead to all the parks. A facility in keeping with the style and appearance of the precinct would enhance the area. Sympathetic plantings to echo the extensive plants we have introduced around our complex would enhance the facility. At the moment the proposed alternative area is an unkempt, hard-to-maintain area of grass and weeds.

Locating the toilet block on public land behind the shops (on the upper embankment alongside the wheel chair pathway) and adjacent to the main park at Lady Nelson Place will produce a number of positive outcomes:

### **Widely-accessible facility**

1. It will provide an amenity for both users of the parks and playground, as well as shoppers. This will service all the surrounding parks and the shops, including the FocusACT Disability Support Group, which has recently moved to the shopping area. Existing disabled access along the ramped pathway in this area is easily navigated by wheelchairs and walkers.
2. The main park of Lady Nelson Place has a playground and large covered area which is used by children and parents for special events like birthday parties and Christmas events. It is only a short walk to the base of the steps leading to the shops. This area is used by the wider community of Red Hill.
3. Many of the children using the playground live in the adjacent Units surrounding Lady Nelson Park and have access to the toilet facilities in these buildings.

### **Maximising connection to existing facilities and activities**

4. There is currently no public toilet amenity at the Red Hill shops. These shops provide important services to the community. The supermarket and the other shops and cafe provide what is effectively a mini plaza which is used for informal community events, such as Christmas parties and lunch events, which are supported by all the shops and cafe.

5. Each Friday evening The Red Hill Social Club holds a well-attended informal get together and the facility of the partially covered 'plaza' between the supermarket and other shops offers protection from the worst of the weather.

6. The location is also close to public transport and would provide a facility for local residents using the adjacent bus stops.

### **Minimising risk of vandalism and graffiti**

6. Locating the proposed toilet block opposite the shops will lessen the likelihood of unwanted loitering due to the busy nature of the group of shops and the services they provide. In contrast, the car park immediately adjacent to the proposed location of the toilet in Lady Nelson Park itself has suffered from car break ins and theft.

7. The proposed area has lighting all night for the parking areas and shops and the existing security camera monitoring would help limit vandalism in the area. This will align with the consideration by the Committee of policies relating to street art and graffiti removal.

Milton Gan

**Chair**

**Executive Committee, The Parks Stage 2 Red Hill**



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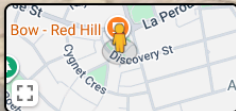




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