

1.0 CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED)

1.1 Basis of Guidelines

The guidelines presented in this document are based on the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

CPTED is accepted in the design and criminology fields as being a very useful tool to reduce the likelihood of crime in set locations. Whilst it is impossible to 'design out' crime, better designed areas have been shown to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

Issues that can have a significant influence on the safety and security of a space are:

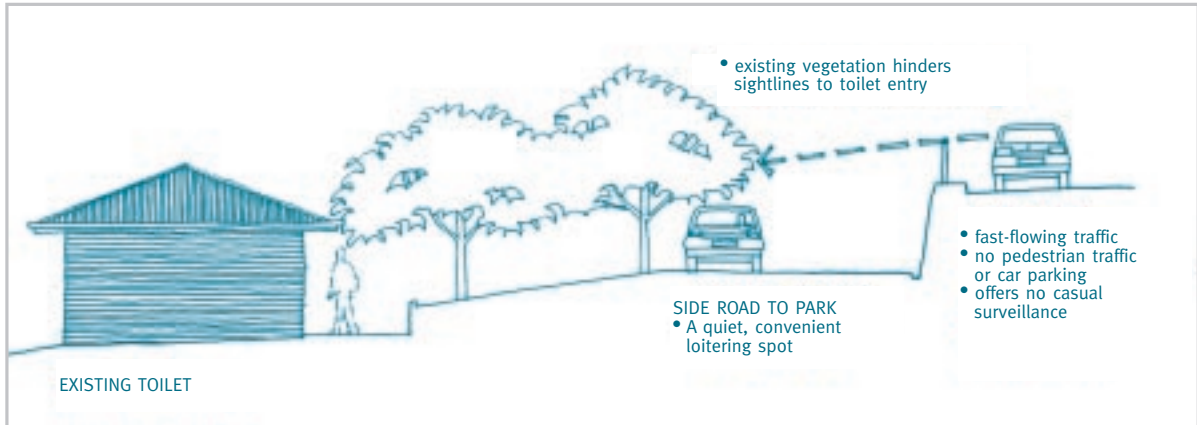
- **Visibility**
- **Access**
- **Amount of natural light**
- **Location and proximity to other facilities**
- **Orientation (where the building faces)**
- **Landscaping**
- **Building materials and finishes**
- **Building design and cubicle configuration**
- **Management, maintenance and security**

A very important consideration, in the case of proposed toilet refurbishments, is whether the site and/or structure are viable. If a toilet location is no longer suitable, then a refurbishment is not likely to reduce vandalism or other unintended behaviours.

A decision will need to be made whether to:

- **refurbish the existing structure**
- **demolish and relocate**
- **demolish and build new structure on the existing site or**
- **demolish and not replace toilet**





1.2 Design and management problems

- Poor natural surveillance due to isolation from pedestrian paths and activity.
- Views to the building are obscured by topography and vegetation.
- Unpleasant and unwelcoming interiors and aesthetics: lack of natural lighting, dark surfaces of unfinished brick and concrete walls and floors.
- Obscured entrances creating uncertainty for patrons when entering and the potential for entrapment.
- Lack of maintenance, management and security. This often leads to poor image, public disregard and vandalism and other unintended activities.



1.3 Transformation of existing public toilets

Example:

- Existing brick walls are removed, leaving only minimal solid walls, increasing visibility.
- Low-level openings are formed in remaining brickwork for ventilation and cleaning purposes.
- New walls and doors to cubicles are constructed of durable, lightweight materials with gaps at floor and ceiling levels.
- A new skylight is added along the roof ridge to increase natural lighting levels inside.
- New ceramic, non-slip tiles are applied to interior surfaces.
- A transparent metal mesh screen is added to the front entry area for greater visibility and provides two possible entry and exit points.
- Low planting is introduced along walls to act as a buffer and to provide screening from graffiti vandalism.
- Interior and exterior surfaces are painted in bright colours with graffiti-resistant coatings.

