

What is the issue? What are we doing about it?

Women line up for too long at bathrooms in theatres, cinemas and similar venues during peak times. We want to fix that by increasing to the minimum number of women's toilets for these types of buildings.

Why are these changes proposed?

- Longer bathroom queues and waiting times for women affects their experiences when attending events, especially at single auditorium venues.
- It reduces time to enjoy socialising, buying food, drinks and merchandise, especially before shows/events and during intervals.
- This also affects their companions, including family, friends, partners and children.
- Women use facilities more often and for longer, so the longer queues and wait time are likely due to there not being enough facilities.

Cost benefit analysis

There's a high overall benefit for all sizes of single auditorium theatres and cinemas, saving women time, providing financial savings at a low cost.

BENEFITS

Per event/show

Reduced queuing time for female patrons

For a common 2-hour event/show, the cumulative extra queuing time for all female patrons is estimated to be **3 hours less** for a small theatre and **117 hours less** for a large theatre.



Per venue

Avoided cost

The total costs attributed to extra queuing time for female patrons at a 300-seated theatre is **\$197,078**.

This increases with the size of theatre.

The total cost that female patrons will suffer from additional queuing time for a larger theatre is **\$12.7 million**.

COSTS

Per toilet

Construction costs

The additional installation cost for a single toilet in the existing facility is \$4,500.

Maintenance costs

The servicing and maintenance cost for an extra toilet is assumed to be \$500 per year.

Per venue

Compliance costs

The proposed changes require 2 extra toilets to be installed for a 300-seated theatre, costing **\$22,800** across the life of the building.

Larger theatres, require more toilets. For a theatre with 5,000 seats, the compliance cost is **\$136,800**.

The technical stuff

We based the changes on the available research. Some key points from this research shows:

- Queuing times for women is up to 14 minutes at peak times, compared to 9 minutes for men (for a cinema meeting the current minimum NCC requirements).
- Women access a toilet 1.3 times more frequently, and spend 1.6 times longer, than men.

The proposed technical changes are the NCC 2025 Public Comment Draft in Part F4 and Table F4D4i (Volume One). The change increases the current ratio of male to female toilets from a 1 to 1.25 ratio, to a 1 to 1.8 ratio.

What we want feedback on

- Tell us how long queues and wait times for women's toilet facilities affects you.
- Do the changes make sense?
- Will they help shorten wait times for women at these venues?