

20th May 2019

Ms Liz Reid and Mr Simon Burchill
President and Director (NT) and Manager

Physical Disability Australia
PO Box 345
Toowong QLD 4066

Dear Ms Reid and Mr Burchill

Byron Shire Council's Accessible Toilets

Thank you for your letter dated Monday 14th January 2019 detailing Physical Disability Australia's (PDA) concerns regarding the Master Locksmith Access Key system (MLAK) locked wheelchair-accessible public toilets located in the Byron Shire.

Council is committed to ensuring all community facilities are accessible and inclusive of people with disability, their families and carers.

Due to your letter, Council has investigated the concerns raised internally and sought advice from Local Government New South Wales (LGNSW). After reviewing current policies and procedures, I am pleased to say that Council practices will now change to ensure 6 of the 7 wheelchair-accessible toilets are:

- Unlocked during daylight hours; and
- Unlocked when co-located with unlocked general entry toilets

The toilet located at New Brighton has shared usage with the local Soccer Club and will require a cooperative approach to ensure an appropriate access option is further investigated.

Council will advise the Australian Government's *ToiletMap* website of the changes.

In regards to the permanent removal of the MLAK system, Council is happy to undertake further discussions with the Access Consultative Working Group.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Yours sincerely

Michael Matthews
Manager Open Spaces and Resource Recovery



TRADITIONAL HOME OF
THE BUNDJALUNG PEOPLE

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE
ADDRESSED TO THE GENERAL MANAGER
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