

**ITEM 7. SCOPING REPORT - SYDNEY PARK SKATE PARK****FILE NO: X003887****SUMMARY**

This report outlines the proposed scope of works and concept design for a skate park in Sydney Park.

The *Open Space and Recreation Needs Study* and *Youth and Skate Facility Needs Study*, acknowledge the need for additional and enhanced recreation facilities for the youth demographic including skate facilities. Sydney Park is among the sites considered for a new skate space to complement and expand on the City's suite of facilities.

The new skate space will be inclusive with a range of challenges for all abilities and wheeled sports, from beginner's obstacles to big tricks for advanced riders. Promotion of a pedestrian route through the larger park is also proposed. Access and amenity in the precinct will be improved with connecting pathways, landscaping, lighting, furniture, and picnic settings.

Community consultation was carried out on the concept design (including a workshop on 6 October 2016 with skate community stakeholders) and a detailed survey specific to the skate elements was conducted. There is broad support for the project. Feedback on the proposed elements and skate function will be used to inform the ongoing design development of these particular elements.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) endorse the refined concept design for the skate park at Sydney Park, as described in the subject report and shown at Attachment A to the subject report, for progression to detailed design, documentation and tender for construction of the works; and
- (B) approve additional project budget as detailed in confidential Attachment C to the subject report.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A:** Park Concept Plan

**Attachment B:** Community Consultation Boards

**Attachment C:** Financial Implications (Confidential)

**(As Attachment C is confidential, it will be circulated separately from the agenda paper and to Councillors and relevant senior staff only.)**

**BACKGROUND**

1. In July 2006, Council endorsed the City's *Youth and Skate Facility Needs Study*. The study recommended a skate facility as increasing numbers of young people are skating in public plazas, particularly in the central business district (CBD).
2. Skating has all the typical benefits of other recreational activities – physical, mental and social, however it requires dedicated facilities to avoid conflicts that often arise in public spaces.
3. Young people aged 12-24 make up 20.2% (or 25,819) of the total resident population of the City. By 2021 the youth population is expected to increase to 43,201. This will not only place increased pressure on indoor youth facilities but will also lead to an increased need for young people to socialise in public open spaces.
4. There are at least 2,000 potential skateboarders likely to be living in the City and approximately 56,000 skateboarders living within 20km of the CBD (based on Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Sports Commission national participation data).
5. Sydney Park is among the sites identified for the development of a skate park to complement and expand on the City's suite of facilities.
6. A Plan of Management for Sydney Park was adopted in May 2014. It identifies the area adjacent to the Sydney Park Cycling Centre for a future skate facility, among other active community uses.
7. Sydney Park offers the opportunity for a comprehensive skate space to cater for all levels, styles and users riding scooters, bikes and skateboards.
8. The area proposed for the skate space is in the northern section of Sydney Park adjacent Sydney Road. This allows easy access from St Peters train station, bus networks and existing car parks.
9. The skate space will remodel the old section of the cycle centre and cater for bowl style wheeled action sports. Located adjacent to the new children's bike track and Sydney Park Cycling Centre, it creates a nexus between the two facilities, and consolidates the active recreation opportunities in this area adjacent to Sydney Park Road. The new children's bike track at Sydney Park opened in November 2015.
10. A cohesive concept design for the skate space and improved park amenity has been prepared following an analysis of skate needs, demand, and supply; site opportunities and constraints; and informed by skate stakeholders and community consultation.
11. The proposal will continue to offer a space for wheeled activities for both children and adults.

### Concept Design

12. The proposed concept creates a comprehensive skate space that significantly expands the range of experiences for people riding their scooters, bikes and skateboards. It will cater for everyone from small children to adults, and for skill levels from beginner through to advanced.
13. Located adjacent to the new children's bike track and gymkhana covered area, it encourages progression for younger children using the bike track to advance into the skate space.
14. The skate space will cater for all styles and is divided into two areas, an urban skate plaza and flow bowl. The urban skate plaza includes:
  - (a) traditional park skate area, including a combination of street and bowl in a park style layout;
  - (b) a lineal plaza zone, focusing on low-level obstacles to allow for technical tricks of a street style; and
  - (c) beginners' bowl, allowing the 'up and coming' skaters to learn and develop their skills.
15. The flow bowl is an intermediate to advanced bowl located on the sloping grass area south of the existing carpark. It provides an element not currently in the surrounding vicinity, and provides for more advanced skaters and possible competitions. Its position takes advantage of the grass slopes south of the main park circuit path, where spectators would be able to sight and view everyday activities and events.
16. The flow bowl was shown as a future stage during consultation. It was included in the consultation material to reflect the full extent and scope of a comprehensive skate space delivered in two stages. As a result of community feedback and support, it is recommended to proceed with the full scope including the flow bowl and allowance has been made in the (draft) Long Term Financial Plan.
17. A new pathway system will provide the missing link to the southern area of Sydney Park, creating a greater park circuit and connecting the skate spaces into the existing park.
18. Landscape improvements are proposed to the skate space precinct including new access paths, picnicking areas, shade trees and lighting.
19. Materials will be drawn from the Sydney Park material palette, integrating the skate precinct into the park.

### Tree Management

20. A review of the existing trees will be undertaken with the City's Arborist during the design development stage of the project. The following tree management will be proposed as part of the works:
  - (a) the retention of trees along the boundary of Sydney Park road and the carpark;
  - (b) minimisation of the removal of trees to facilitate the of the new skate urban plaza;

- (c) the planting of approximately 20 new trees in the skate space area along the southern edge of the carpark and along the new circuit path, improving deep soil profiles; and
- (d) the planting of new shrubs and ground covers to integrate the skate space into the broader park.

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

21. Public exhibition of the concept design for the Sydney Park Skate Park was conducted over four weeks from 3 November 2016 to 2 December 2016.
22. A workshop was held on 6 October 2016 with the skate community stakeholders to inform the development of the concept design.
23. Consultation activities included:
  - (a) a consultation letter sent to 6250 local residents and businesses informing them of the project and submission details;
  - (b) a webpage on [sydneyyoursay.com.au](http://sydneyyoursay.com.au) where submissions could be made;
  - (c) five tweets were posted from @cityofsydney and @sydneyyoursay;
  - (d) the concept design was displayed in at the One Stop Shop in Town Hall House and Redfern Neighbourhood Service Centre;
  - (e) five signs were placed throughout Sydney Park and Waterloo Skate Park; and
  - (f) a pop up information session at Sydney Park on Saturday 5 November 2016 where the project team spoke with park users and skaters about the project. Feedback was received on the concept design and a detailed survey specific to the skate elements.
24. On the Sydneyyoursay webpage, 1,310 individual users viewed the project and the plans were viewed or downloaded 374 times. 105 submissions on the concept design were made.
25. General comments on the concept design included:
  - (a) there was good community support for a new skate space in Sydney Park, with 75% of feedback supporting the concept design;
  - (b) 67 submissions supported the proposed elements in the concept plan and the need to accommodate for all styles;
  - (c) there was encouraging feedback on provision of mix for all skill levels and ages; and
  - (d) the skate survey indicated there was a large amount of skateboards and BMX riders, and a range of emerging wheeled sports. The majority of people skate very regularly, daily and weekly.

26. Key issues raised in community consultation include:
- (a) requests to ensure that proper amenities including toilets, shade and water bubblers are incorporated into the design;
  - (b) 18 submissions requested to include the flow bowl into the current scope of the project. In addition, from the skate survey the bowl ranked highest as the favourite element;
  - (c) 16 submissions requested to retain the older bike track; and
  - (d) there were detailed requests and comments on specific skate elements on the skate space design.
27. The City's response to each of the key issues raised by the community are summarised below:
- (a) New public toilets are proposed in the area and will be located on the western edge of the children's bike track. The proposal will include shade to gathering spaces and additional amenities such as seating, bubblers and bins.
  - (b) It is recommended the flow bowl be included in the current scope, providing a comprehensive and consolidated skate space in Sydney Park.
  - (c) The new children's bike track was designed and constructed to replace the older bike track, making way for its removal. The new children's bike track captures the popularity of the old facility in an updated design that significantly expands the range of experiences for children riding their bike in a social and playful way. The skate space further contributes to an expanded and contemporary space for bikes, scooters and skateboards.
  - (d) Feedback on preferred style, proposed elements and function will be used to inform the ongoing design development. Much of the specific elements requested are captured in the concept design and will help to refine the final elements and layout in particular for the street plaza.
28. Further updates on the project, including opportunities for ongoing consultation with the skate user group and construction notification will be provided through the following channels:
- (a) Notifications sent to local residents, business owners and people who have made submissions.
  - (b) During construction, on-site updates will be displayed.

## KEY IMPLICATIONS

### Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

29. *Sustainable Sydney 2030* is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following *Sustainable Sydney 2030* strategic directions and objectives:
- (a) Direction 6 - Vibrant local communities and economies – the project will enhance the recreation opportunities for park users;

- (b) Direction 9 - Sustainable development, renewal and design – the project will provide new open space infrastructure for the public, supporting family; and
- (c) social recreation activity in an improved landscape setting.

### **Open Space and Recreation Needs Study 2007**

30. The *Open Space and Recreation Needs Study 2007* acknowledges the need for additional and enhanced recreation facilities for the youth demographic including skate facilities. It recommends the provision of accessible and diverse skate amenities including provision of a range of skate facilities that include both street (plaza) and bowl formats at safe locations, near public transport and where appropriate provide skate facilities in multi-functional spaces that can be shared by others.

### **Social / Cultural / Community**

31. The proposal will deliver a dedicated space for wheeled activities. The skate space and associated park works provide well-designed facilities close to supporting amenities to foster children and adult health and development through active play.

### **Economic**

32. The new facilities are likely to attract more users to the park, which may assist the viability of local businesses, such as the nearby cafes and stores. The facility will add to the area's attraction for families.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

33. An independent quantity surveyor has verified the total forecast project construction cost based on the concept plans. A summary of the financial implications is included in confidential Attachment C to the subject report.
34. Additional funding is required to deliver concept design shown at Attachment A to the subject report.

### **RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

35. Attachment C to the subject report contains confidential information which, if disclosed, would confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. Discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest because it would compromise Council's ability to negotiate fairly and commercially to achieve the best outcome for its ratepayers.
36. *Local Government Act 1993* for construction procurement.
37. *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (Part 4 and 5). A planner will review the scope of works to assess consent requirements for the project under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

**CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES**

38. Key dates for the project are as follows:

- |     |  |                            |
|-----|--|----------------------------|
| (a) | Design Development and<br>Construction Documentation | June 2017– March 2018      |
| (b) | Tender period  | December 2017 – April 2018 |
| (c) | Construction   | April 2018 – April 2019    |

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