

Whitianga Skate Park Design

TO Mercury Bay Community Board
FROM Andrew Scobie - Project Manager, Mercury Bay
DATE 31 July 2018
SUBJECT Whitianga Skate Park Design

1 Purpose of Report

To update the Mercury Bay Community Board on progress relating to the Whitianga Skate Park Project. For the Community Board to approve the attached concept design and location for the proposed new Whitianga Skate Park to replace the existing facility.

2 Background

The existing skate park facility in Whitianga is well utilised by locals and visitors to the area and in particular the youth of Whitianga.

The existing facility was placed over an old mini putt site and was not specifically constructed for its intended purpose. As a predominantly community youth facility the current location is not suitable due to being somewhat obscured from public view.

The present facility has degraded over the years with the timber ramps becoming unsafe and some being removed.

The youth and skate boarders of Whitianga have been in discussion with Council over a development of a Skate Park facility in Whitianga for a number of years. The last upgrade was a new ramp in 2007.

Following recent revitalisation of the Skateboard and Scooter riders group a plan has been placed and approved within Council's Long Term Plan(date) for a new facility to be constructed in 2020.

3 Discussion

i. Consultation

Skate park facilities are considered an attraction and asset to the communities as a place for youth to develop skills and coordination, to socialise and interact with different ages. A meeting was held with local users of the Skate Park in 2017. Various possible locations were investigated for the facility and the proposed location chosen for the following reasons:

- Permitted activity within the district plan
- Proximity to existing activity and acceptance within the community
- Included within the Reserve Management Plans
- Preferred by the Community Board
- Allows for future development of a Community Centre
- Maintains existing overflow parking areas
- Further develops the underutilised area of Taylors Mistake
- Provides for a sufficiently exposed area to encourage appropriate play

The above was outlined in a submission to the Mercury Bay Community Board 24th May 2017. The Skate Park Group is now at a stage where they would like to take the agreed concept design (**Appendix 1**) and consult with the community and skate park users.

This design will allow the group to further develop the detail in conjunction with the users and designers for an appropriate new and modern Skate park for Mercury Bay positioned in Taylors Mistake.

ii. Implementation

The first stage of the project in 2018 was to locate, consult and provide a preliminary design of a proposed new skate park facility for Whitianga Town. This will allow the Mercury Bay Skate Group to consult on the design and seek input from the community for support and funding options.

The next stage is to develop the detailed design in 2019 and confirm and commit external funding to the project for Construction in the following financial year.

4 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Mercury Bay Community Board:

1. Receives the ' Whitianga Skate Park Design' report dated 31 July 2018.
2. Approves the proposed layout and location of the Skate Park
3. Supports the Mercury Bay Skate Park Group in utilising the existing Boffa Miskell concept design to seek further community support and funding for the next phase of the project.