

Community Recreation and Skate Park Hub- Sub-Committee

Report to the Bawley Point and Kioloa Community Association Executive

The Bawley Point and Kioloa Community Association formed a skatepark sub-committee on 21 July 2019(renamed Community Recreation and Skate Park Hub Sub-committee). The sub-committee has met on 6 occasions since then and has briefed itself on Shoalhaven City Council's (SCC) policy "Provision of Local Skate Parks".

The sub-committee has addressed a number of issues in that policy but realises that our community does not have the skills and resources to address a number of the key issues and that it is SCC's role to conduct the official consultation process.

On 28 April 2021 and as part of the Shoalhaven Voices program, members of the sub-committee met with Councillors Patricia White (Assistant Deputy Mayor) and Kaye Gartner, and with Susan Edwards, Strategic Asset Planner, Shoalhaven City Council.

As a result of that meeting Susan Edwards has made a number of recommendations, the most important of which is that the BPKCA should now

refer the skatepark matter to SCC for full and broad consultation with the community. This also makes this matter a CCB matter.

Susan Edwards also recommended that the sub-committee should consult with SCC in regard to the construction of a temporary ramp.

The sub-committee therefore recommends that the BPKCA write to SCC in the above terms and include the following observations:

- The Bawley Point and Kioloa community has a long history of providing sporting and recreational facilities for the local community. Facilities such as a community hall, tennis courts and club building, basketball court, handball court, open playing fields, children's playgrounds, boat ramps and shared cycle and pathway have been financed via a variety of publicly provided and locally donated funds and efforts.
- The BPKCA recognises that there are gaps in the provision of appropriate sporting and recreational facilities. Many local residents believe that we should identify and provide appropriate facilities that fill these gaps and cater to the needs of the broadening demographics. The recently approved extension to the shared pathway joining the two villages is an example of this.

- In addition to the pathway, one major facility identified by the growing number of young families within both the Bawley Point and Kioloa communities, is a youth precinct and skatepark facility. At the BPKCA meeting on 21 July 2019 the community resolved that the BPKCA should pursue this issue. The overall objective of this inclusive precinct is not only to install a skating facility to encourage physical activity, but to provide an outdoor hub for young and older members of the community to come together in an accessible and approachable shared outdoor space. Additional aspects for consideration and enhancement of the project include:

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- Focus on the creation of a pro-social, safe, recreational environment that is welcoming for all members of the community through careful design, planning and consultation with the community and the SCC,
- Location of the precinct to be built in an appropriate recreational/sporting precinct, taking advantage of existing facilities,
- Provision of opportunities for children and young people within the community to take part in

unstructured play, build social connections, confidence and new skills,

- Pro-actively addressing concerns around antisocial behaviour with research-based knowledge and information,
- Noting that a number of representations have been made directly to Council, and
- Noting the overwhelming support for the project as documented in the form of an online petition which organically circulated through the community. This should also be taken into account: [https:// www.change.org/p/shoalhaven-city-council-bawley-point-kioloa-skate-park-and-childrens-play-area](https://www.change.org/p/shoalhaven-city-council-bawley-point-kioloa-skate-park-and-childrens-play-area) .

The BPKCA therefore requests the SCC to commence planning in earnest to build an inclusive skatepark and recreational precinct to achieve the best possible outcome for the entire community through open engagement and comprehensive consultation with the community as a whole. It should also be noted that the BPKCA and its Sub-Committee are available to work with Council to achieve an appropriate outcome.

(Please note from 29 June 2021 the Association has included Termeil in its name ie Bawley Point, Kioloa and Termeil Community Association)