





HARRISON PARK CONSULTATION REPORT

REV D | 20 JUNE 2024





HARRISON PARK MULTIPURPOSE YOUTH AREA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COMPLETE

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Complete Urban (COMPLETE) has been engaged to deliver a community consultation program for Shellharbour City Council for the Harrison Park Multipurpose Youth Area. After assessing the proposed location, existing masterplan and presentation boards, the majority of the respondents expressed a slightly positive to very positive sentiment, with suggestions for minor alterations, specific elements and queries on location.

Having considered the fact that community outreach and consultation has been previously undertaken in the Masterplan stage, this round of consultation will focus on the proposed addition of a skate park which was introduced at a later stage. Given the location outside of Blackbutt Youth Centre and the proposed activity, the events planned aim to consult the younger demographic and future users of the skate park.

The public consultation of this project has been well taken up, with the following events undertaken:

- Held on 27 May, COMPLETE attended the Reconciliation Flag Walk Event at Reddall Reserve with a pop-up display stall supported by Shellharbour Council's Community Engagement Officer. This event was attended by 6 schools and various members of the community.
- On the 30th and 31st of May, Shellharbour City Council and COMPLETE organised two workshops at Albion Park Skate Park and Shellharbour Skate Park respectively to gather detailed feedback and promote prompted discussions with the community. The aim was focused feedback on the proposed skate park and desired elements. COMPLETE organised a consultant from Skate Sculpture to attend both events to ensure effective feedback and in-person presence of an experienced skater.

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2. INTRODUCTION

Complete Urban (COMPLETE) has been commissioned by Shellharbour City Council (SCC) to undertake the community engagement process for Harrison Park Multipurpose Youth Area. As part of this package of works, the following report has been developed to summarise the community engagement achieved by both Complete Urban and Council. The overall objective of the project was to reaffirm the sentiment of the community post-initial consultation at the Masterplan Stage and allow the community to comment on additional proposed works that were not present at the Master planning stage such as the Skate Park.

The Harrison Park Multipurpose Youth Area project is a significant investment in the improvement of the town's infrastructure and a vital opportunity to enhance the local community, especially within the younger demographic. As with any major project, community engagement is a critical element in ensuring its success. By actively involving the community in the project, Council can ensure that the project's objectives align with the community's aspirations and priorities. The engagement process helps to identify the community's specific needs and challenges that the proposed Harrison Park upgrade can address. Engaging the community allows for transparency and accountability in the project's development, creating a sense of ownership and buy-in from the community.

This report aims to provide an overview of the community engagement process for the project known as the Harrison Park Multipurpose Youth Area. It will outline the strategies and methods used to engage with the community, including consultation with key stakeholders, community workshops and pop-up events. We will also discuss the community's feedback and concerns regarding the project and how they will be addressed.

This phase of community engagement was undertaken in alignment with IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation. The IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation is a tool developed by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) to help organisations identify the level of public impact they intend to achieve when engaging stakeholders. It provides a framework that categorises public participation into five levels, each one reflecting increasing degrees of public influence in the decision-making process as seen below.

IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

IAP2's Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in public participation plans around the world.

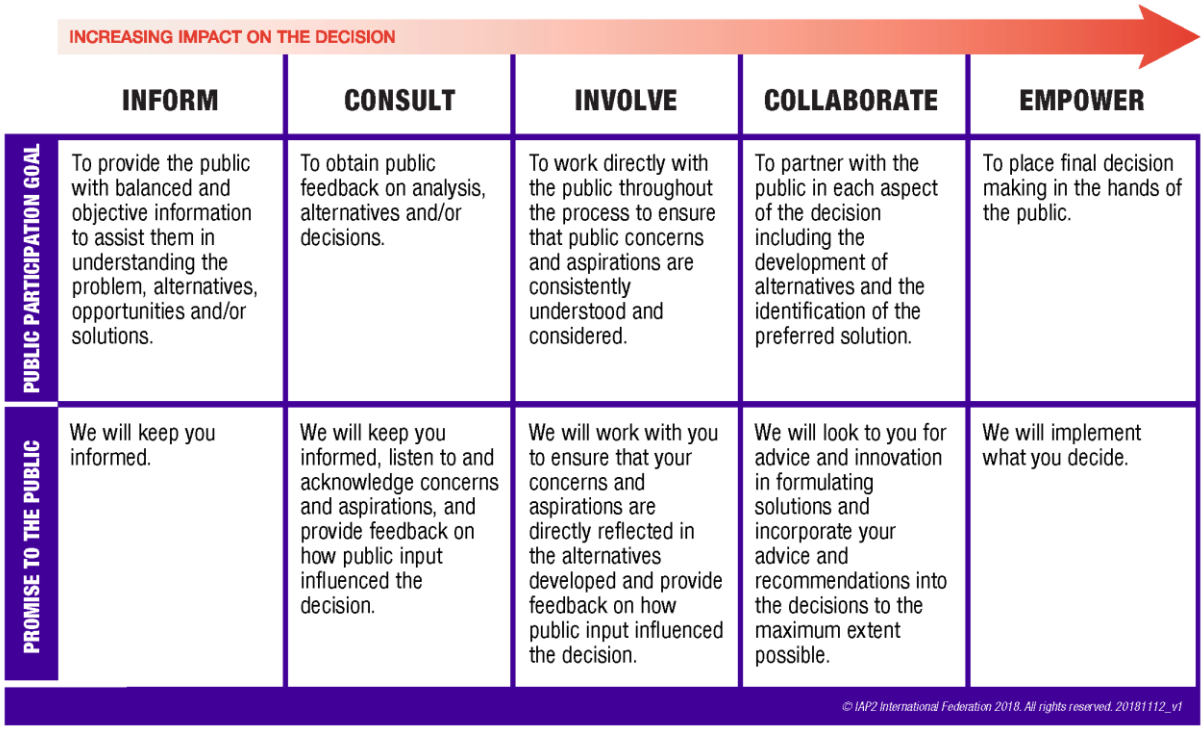


Figure 1 IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

Finally, the report will provide recommendations for ongoing community engagement throughout the project's implementation to ensure that the community remains informed and involved in decision-making. We will also suggest ways to measure the success of the community engagement process and identify areas for improvement in future projects.

3. METHODS OF ENGAGEMENT

Active participation, communication, and collaboration with community members and stakeholders are essential components of the community engagement process. There are many methods of collecting information and feedback from communities. The following methods of community engagement were used for this project:

1. **Flyers**: Flyers are a medium of communication used to extend the reach and engagement of our feedback. We were able to distribute flyers and place them in key locations to notify and alert the community of upcoming events and information that they would otherwise be unaware of. Flyers were also distributed directly via email to our local schools networks and community groups, facilitated by Youth Services.
2. **Social Media:** Shellharbour City Council (SCC), Shellharbour Youth Services, Skate Sculpture and Complete Urban all utilised their social media presence to promote the project as well as the community workshops. SCC's Facebook post had a reach of +19,000 pax and 156 interactions (likes, comments, shares), in addition SCC's Instagram post had a reach of 2,285 and 180 interactions, with 18-24 years old making up the highest portion of this post's audience.
3. **Pop-up Stalls:** Pop-up stalls are an interactive and collaborative way to engage with community members. Workshops provide an opportunity for face-to-face discussion, idea generation, and problem-solving.
4. **Community workshops:** Community workshops are an interactive and collaborative way to engage with community members. Workshops provide an opportunity for face-to-face discussion, idea generation, and problem-solving. Community workshops can be conducted in-person or online, and they should include a variety of activities to engage participants and ensure that all voices are heard. Two community workshops were held on 30th May 2024 and 31st of May 2024 and will be explored further in this report.

During the initial round of feedback for the skate park project, we placed a strong emphasis on in-person participation. This approach was intentionally chosen to engage youth and active users of our existing local skateparks directly. By gathering feedback in person, we aimed to capture the preferences and insights of those who are most likely to use the new facility.

In this phase, we focused on gathering detailed input about specific skate elements that should be included in the new park. It was crucial to hear directly from the skaters and riders who will ultimately be using these features. Their firsthand experience and expertise provided invaluable guidance, ensuring that the design would meet their needs and enhance their skating experience.

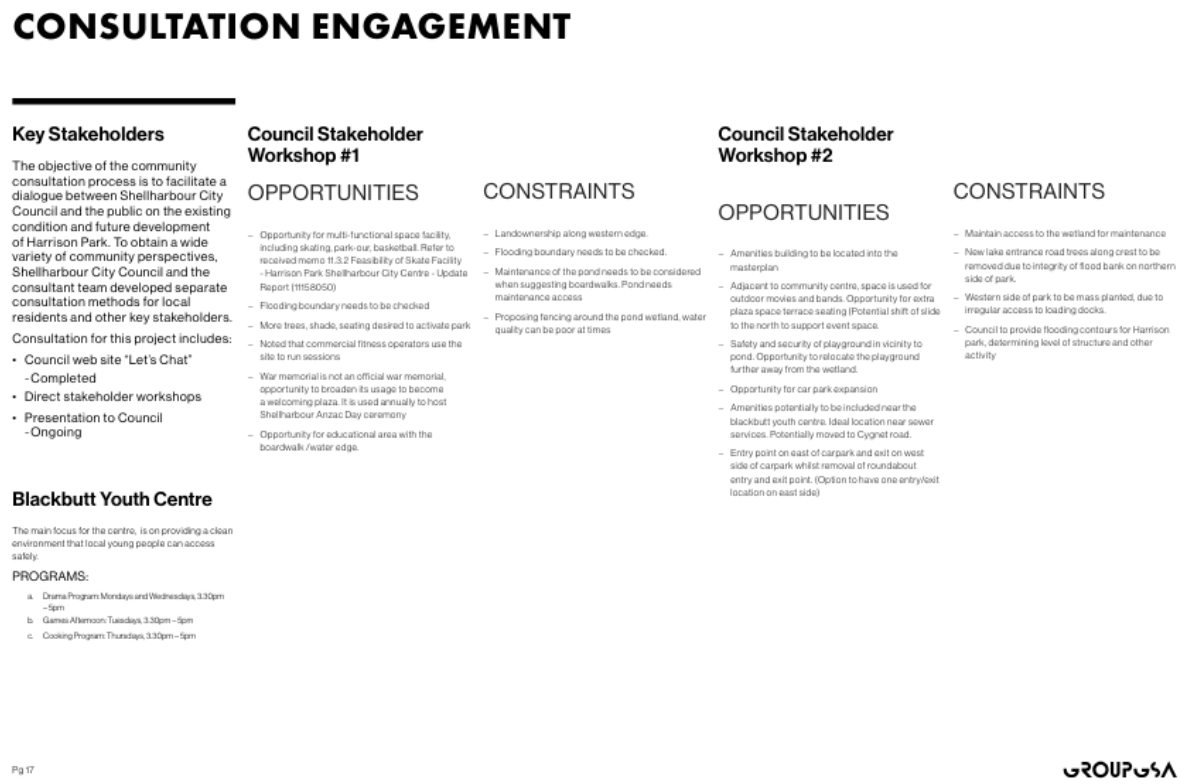
Overall, the community engagement was a multi-faceted approach that incorporated a variety of methods to reach different audiences and gather diverse perspectives. These methods allowed the community to have multiple levels of engagement, which ultimately resulted in a strong response from the community. These responses have been summarised and reviewed in the next sections of this report.

4. SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT

4.1 HARRISON PARK SHELLHARBOUR CITY CENTRE MASTER PLAN (2021)

Several rounds of consultation took place during the master planning phase of the project. The purpose of this was to facilitate a dialogue between Shellharbour City Council and the public on the existing condition and future development of Harrison Park. To obtain a wide variety of community perspectives, Shellharbour City Council and the consultant team developed separate consultation methods for local residents and other key stakeholders.

Engagement efforts involved 2 Council Stakeholder Workshops as well as online engagement through Council's 'Let's Chat' platform.



CONSULTATION ENGAGEMENT

Key Stakeholders

The objective of the community consultation process is to facilitate a dialogue between Shellharbour City Council and the public on the existing condition and future development of Harrison Park. To obtain a wide variety of community perspectives, Shellharbour City Council and the consultant team developed separate consultation methods for local residents and other key stakeholders.

Consultation for this project includes:

- Council web site "Let's Chat" - Completed
- Direct stakeholder workshops
- Presentation to Council - Ongoing

Blackbutt Youth Centre

The main focus for the centre, is on providing a clean environment that local young people can access safely.

PROGRAMS:

a. Drama Program Mondays and Wednesdays, 3.30pm – 5pm
b. Games Afternoon Tuesdays, 3.30pm – 5pm
c. Cooking Program Thursdays, 3.30pm – 5pm

Council Stakeholder Workshop #1

OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunity for multi-functional space facility, including skating, park-our, basketball. Refer to received memo 11.3.2 Feasibility of Skate Facility - Harrison Park Shellharbour City Centre - Update Report (11158050)
- Flooding boundary needs to be checked
- More trees, shade, seating desired to activate park
- Noted that commercial fitness operators use the site to run sessions
- War memorial is not an official war memorial, opportunity to broaden its usage to become a welcoming plaza. It is used annually to host Shellharbour Anzac Day ceremony
- Opportunity for educational area with the boardwalk /water edge.

CONSTRAINTS

- Landownership along western edge.
- Flooding boundary needs to be checked.
- Maintenance of the pond needs to be considered when suggesting boardwalks. Pond needs maintenance access
- Proposing fencing around the pond wetland, water quality can be poor at times

Council Stakeholder Workshop #2

OPPORTUNITIES

- Amenities building to be located into the masterplan
- Adjacent to community centre, space is used for outdoor movies and bands. Opportunity for extra plaza space terrace seating (Potential shift of slide to the north to support event space.
- Safety and security of playground in vicinity to pond. Opportunity to relocate the playground further away from the wetland.
- Opportunity for car park expansion
- Amenities potentially to be included near the blackbutt youth centre. Ideal location near sewer services. Potentially moved to Cygnet road.
- Entry point on east of carpark and exit on west side of carpark whilst removal of roundabout entry and exit point. (Option to have one entry/exit location on east side)

CONSTRAINTS

- Maintain access to the wetland for maintenance
- New lake entrance road trees along crest to be removed due to integrity of flood bank on northern side of park.
- Western side of park to be mass planted, due to irregular access to loading docks.
- Council to provide flooding contours for Harrison park, determining level of structure and other activity

Pg 17

GROUPGSA

Figure 2 Consultation Engagement, extracted from Group GSA's Masterplan

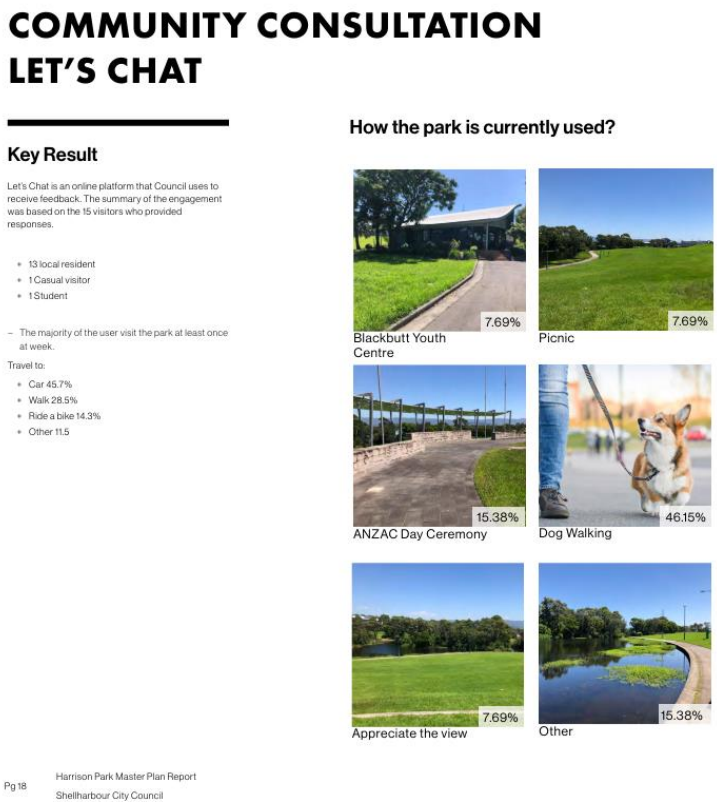


Figure 3 Community Consultation, extracted from Group GSA's Masterplan



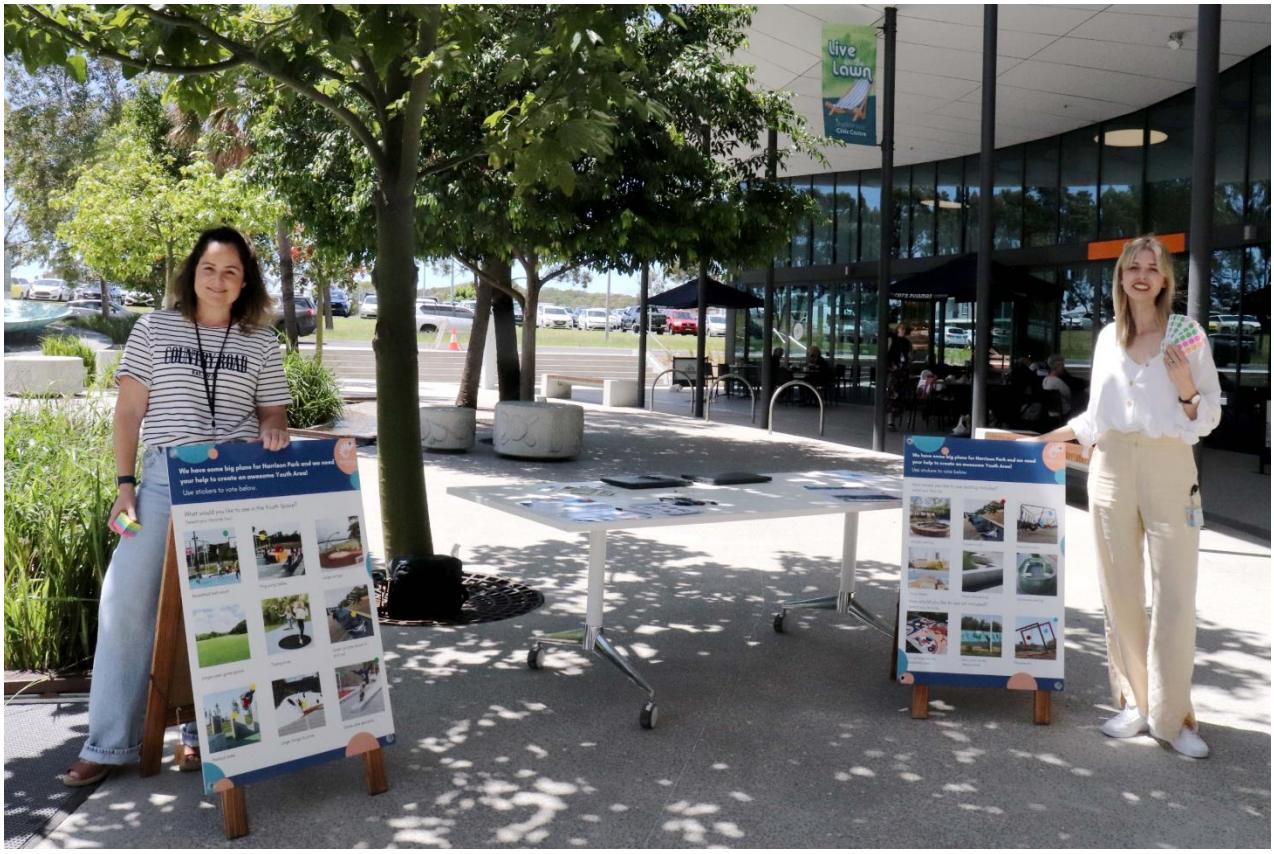
Figure 4 Community Consultation, extracted from Group GSA's Masterplan

The masterplan can be viewed here.

4.2 HARRISON PARK YOUTH ZONE DATED 28 NOVEMBER 2022

During November 2022, Council's engagement team attended 3 focused Youth events to chat with those aged 12-24 who live, study, or play in Shellharbour:

- Youth Summit - Civic Centre, Shellharbour City Centre
- Shellharbour Rocks the Village - Main band stage
- Shellharbour Rocks Surf and Skate - Shellharbour Skate Park



The consultation focused on the Youth Zone at Harrison Park. Overall, quiet places to hang out, particularly with hammocks were the most popular request for the youth zone. The top 6 most important things are:

1. Places to hang out
2. Ball Courts
3. Charging stations
4. Social seating
5. Playful elements
6. Fitness Station

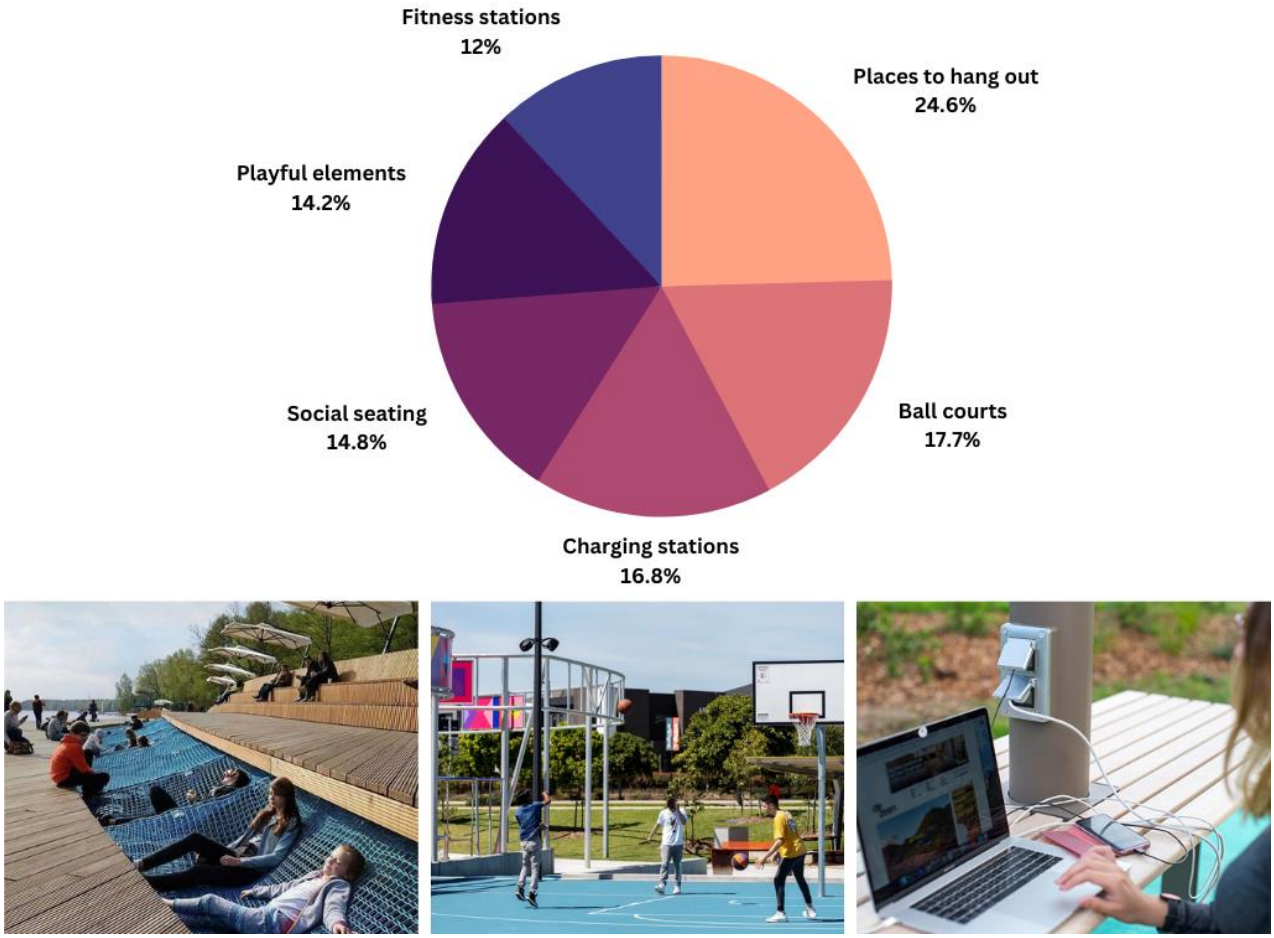


Figure 5 What we heard

More details of this engagement can be found on Council's website.

5. PROMOTION

Awareness and outreach are key in engaging a wider demographic of the community, this results in higher quality feedback overall and more varied input.

5.1 SOCIAL MEDIA

The workshops were also promoted on Council's Facebook page, as well as Shellharbour Youth Service's Facebook page.
In addition, the posts were shared to both accounts' Instagram feeds.

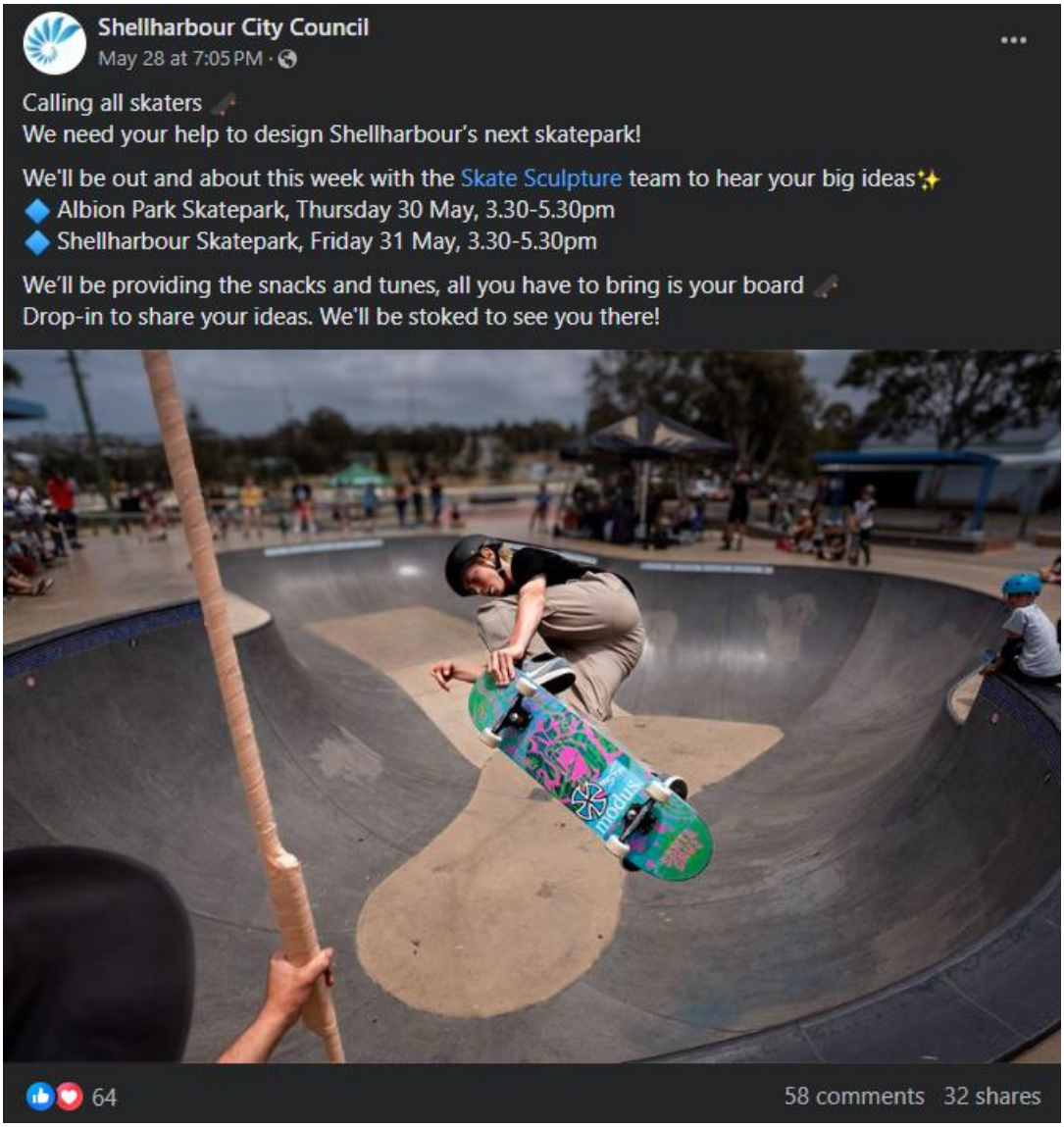


Figure 6 Facebook Post (28 May 2024)

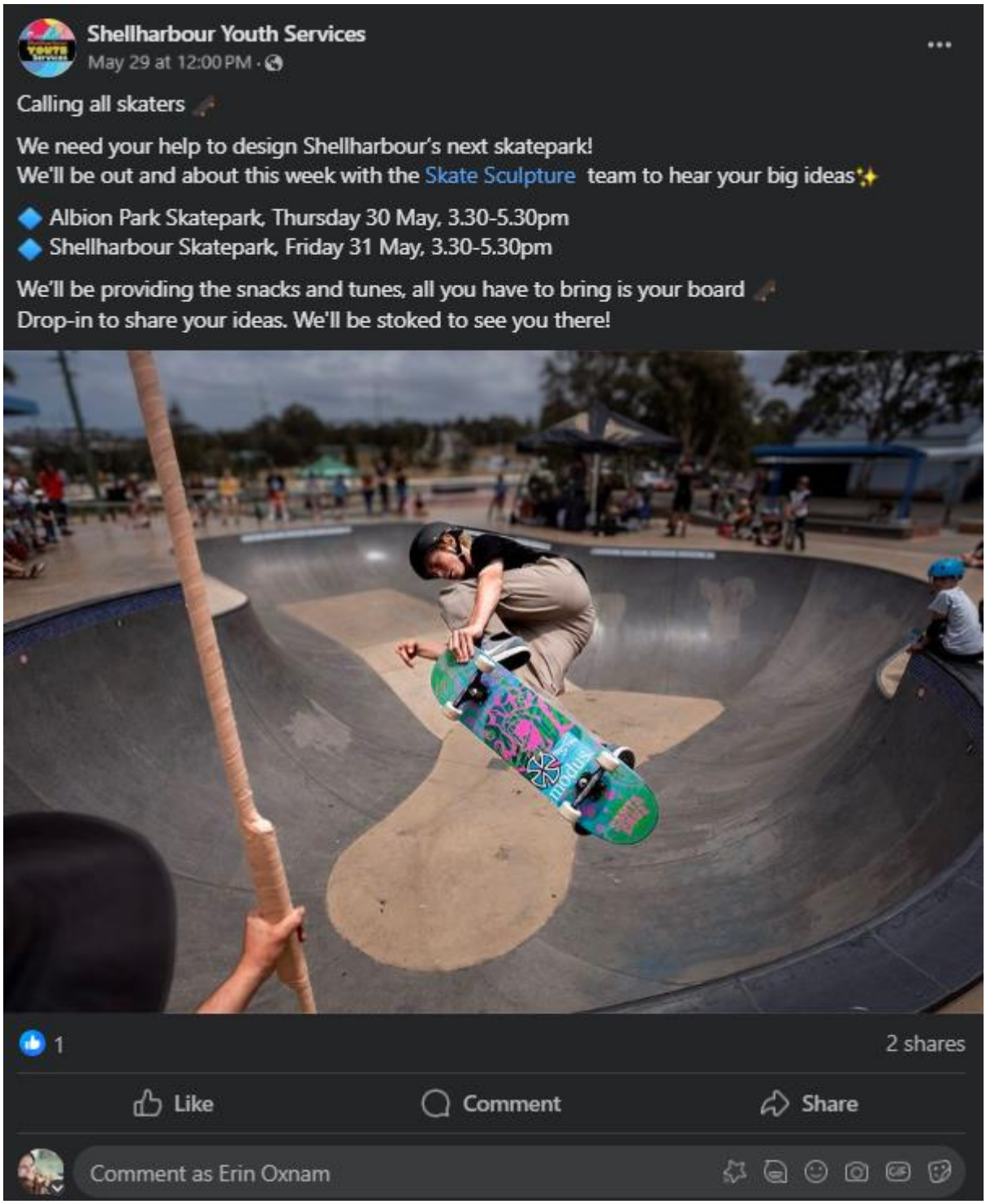


Figure 7 Facebook Post (29 May 2024)

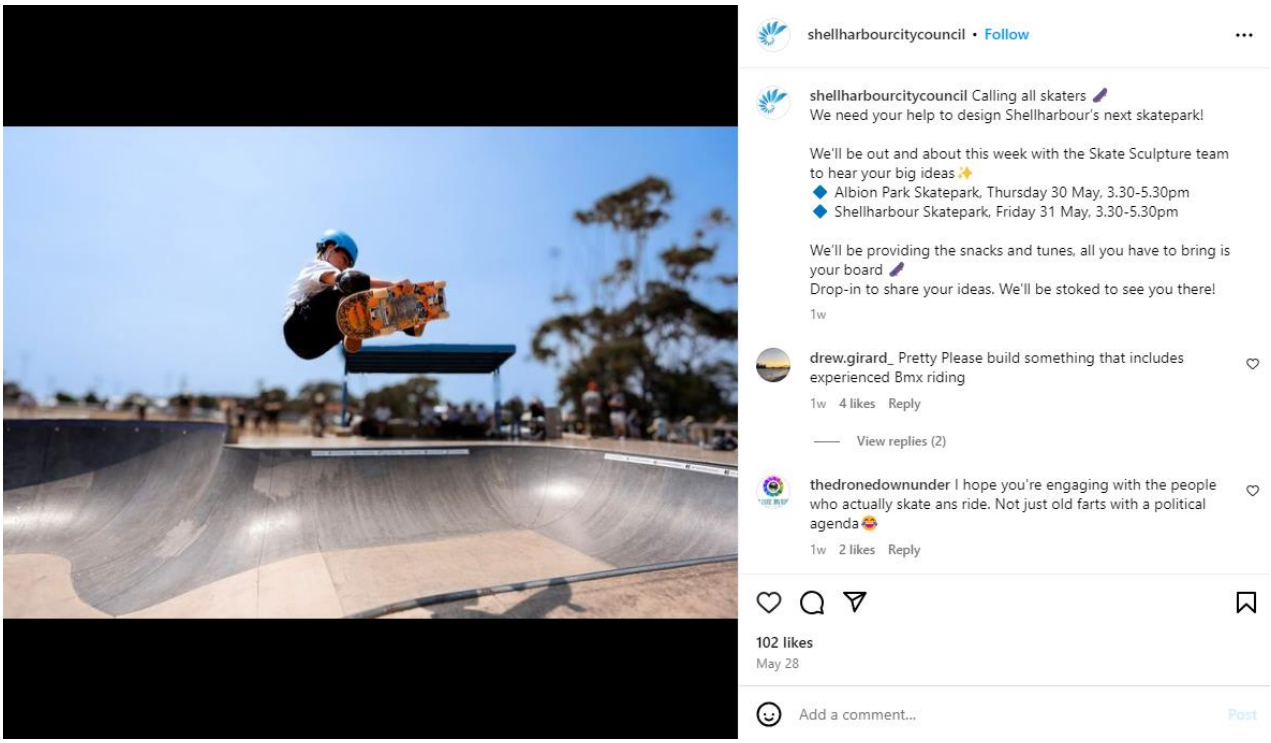


Figure 8 Instagram Post (28 May 2024)

https://www.instagram.com/p/C7gaiThNhp3/?hl=en

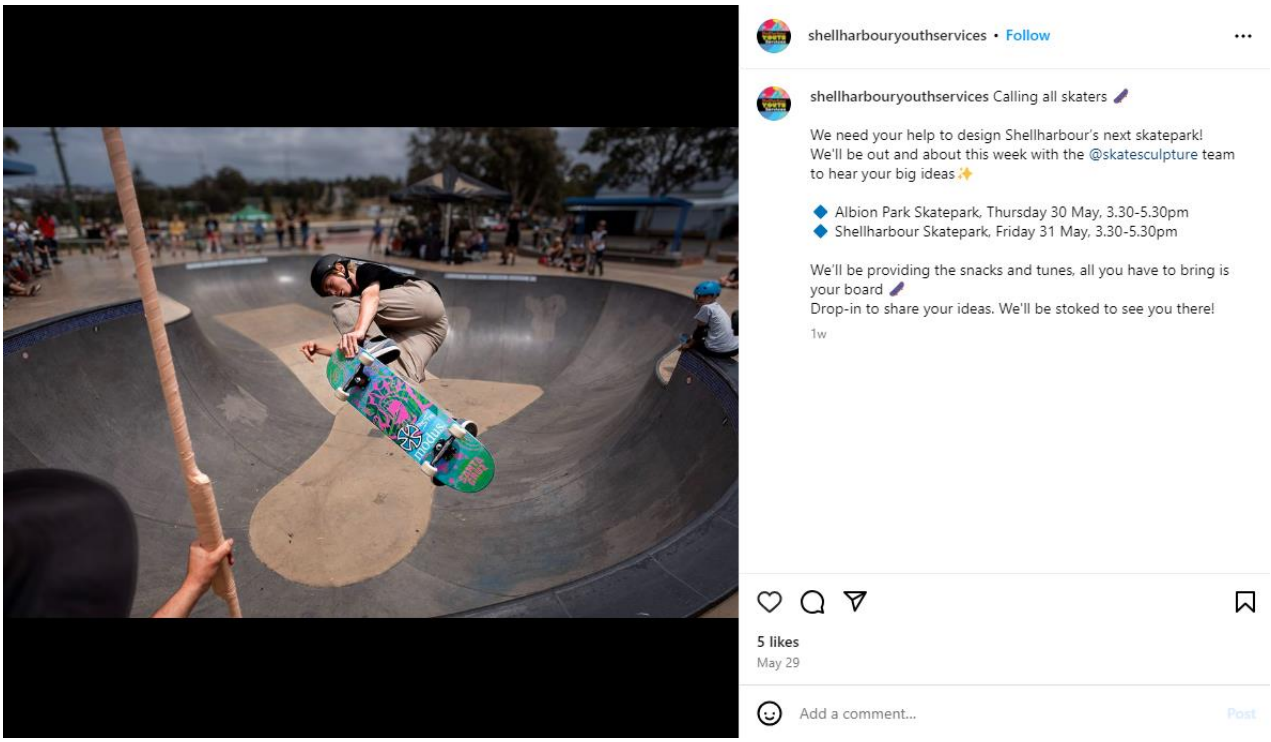
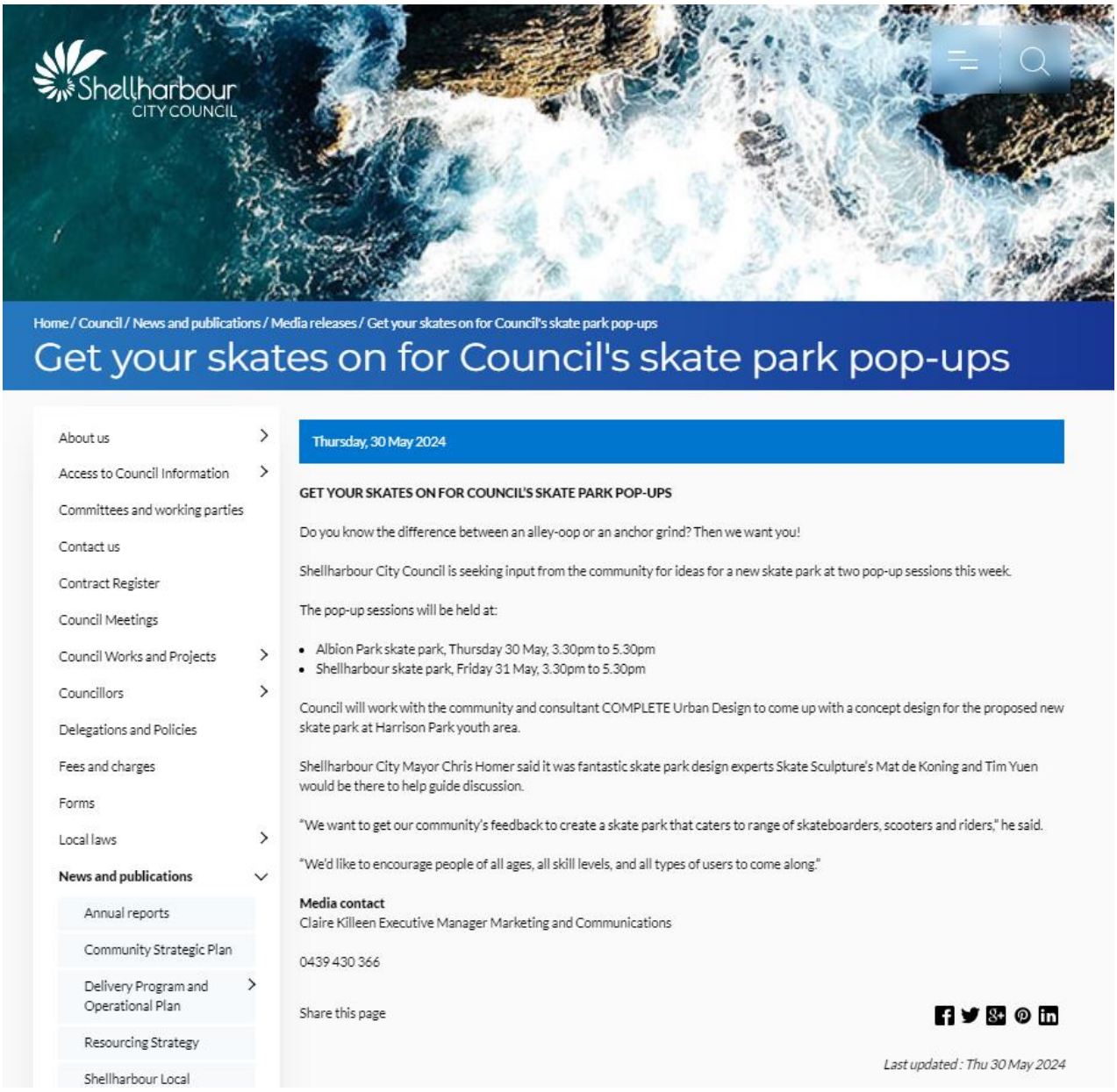


Figure 9 Instagram Post (29 May 2024)

5.2 COUNCIL'S WEBSITE

Council published a media alert on their website promoting the pop-up workshops at Albion Park and Shellharbour Skate Park.



Click to view the article.

5.3 FLYER

In addition to social media posts and media website releases undertaken by Shellharbour City Council, flyers were also created to advertise the planned community workshops.

Complete aided in discussions and the creation of the flyer as well as the distribution of the flyers during the Reconciliation Flag Walk on the 27th of May. As 6 different schools were in attendance, we distributed the flyers to anyone with an interest in the proposed skate park, as well as any teachers so they could pin them up on their noticeboards or similar. Additionally, two copies of the flyer were laminated and displayed at both Shellharbour Skate Park and Albion Park skate park to give advanced notice for the regular users of the park.



Figure 10 Flyer distributed to advertise for upcoming community workshops

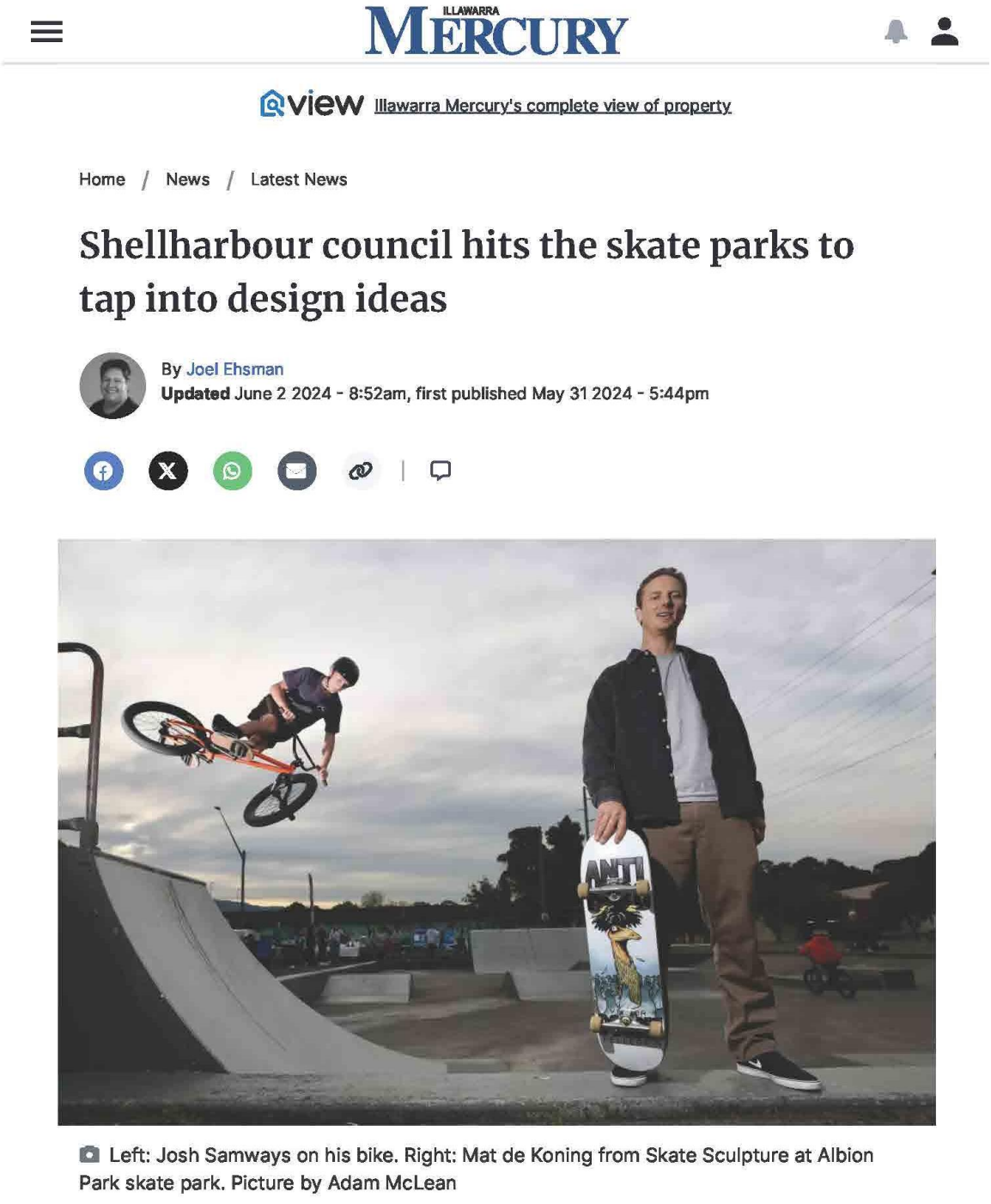
The flyer was also distributed through the following channels:

- Direct school outreach via email, facilitated by Youth services
- Community groups outreach via email
- Flyer drops at hotspot locations including City Library, Civic Centre Cafe, Youth Centres

5.4 ARTICLE

The Illawarra Mercury responded to Council's media alert and interviewed Mat de Koning from Skate Sculpture in an article posted on 31 May 2024.

The full article can be found in Appendix B or read here.



ILLAWARRA MERCURY

view Illawarra Mercury's complete view of property

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Shellharbour council hits the skate parks to tap into design ideas

By Joel Ehsman
Updated June 2 2024 - 8:52am, first published May 31 2024 - 5:44pm

Left: Josh Samways on his bike. Right: Mat de Koning from Skate Sculpture at Albion Park skate park. Picture by Adam McLean

Where better to go to get help on skate park designs than skate parks?

That's exactly what Shellharbour City Council - at Albion Park and Shellharbour - as it works on plans for a new park.

The council bought in Mat de Koning and Tim Yuen, from skatepark design and construction company Skate Sculpture, to help with the consultation process.

They used "dotmocracy". Locals of all skill levels were were asked what they wanted to see at the new park. They were then given five stickers to place on those features.

"From this when they rock up to see the brand new skate park, they're going to go, 'yeah that's the type of stuff that I wanted to see in the future skate park'," Mr de Koning said.

Mr de Koning has been designing skate parks for 10 years and says while it can be a subjective art, there are fundamental rules which need to be followed.

"Obstacles angles that are not properly functional, spacings and positionings that aren't correct."

The Albion Park skate park has a five-foot bank which is pointed to a dead-end which can cause injuries.

"You will never see a modern skate park do this because the speed that you gain from that going over there, it's now sending you directly into a wall.

"That is fundamentally flawed in a skate park."

Josh Samways has been going to the Albion Park skate park for 13 years and shared his opinion on what was needed at a new park.

"I prefer a bowl so that we can ride it on the BMXs and it makes it fun," Josh said. "So you can practice tricks and stuff to then push forward slope-style."

A place for the community

Mr De Koning believes a good skate park can only benefit the community.

"It gives them a good reason to catch the bus, to do the dishes so their parents are willing to drive them to a new facility," he said.

"It's giving them a place to be more social, it's giving them a place to be more active, they're going to make more friends.

"You might be seeing future Olympians come because you've got a facility that could allow development and growth on top of that."

He pointed to the popularity of Albion Park skate park (even with its issues) on Thursday afternoon as the sun went down.

"Right now, this facility is probably not all that appealing to the masses and it's full of kids using it."

Read More:

Share



Joel Ehsman
Reporter
Reporter at the Illawarra Mercury, experiencing life near the beach.

Comments

6. POP-UP STALL AT REDDALL RESERVE

6.1 OVERVIEW

A community consultation session was held on 27th of May at the Reconciliation Flag Walk event. Located in Reddall Reserve, COMPLETE's design team with the aid of Shellharbour City Council, set up a stall and posters to collect community feedback. COMPLETE was present from 9am until the event ended at 2:30pm.

The session was attended by a total of 6 schools with over 700 students in attendance. Students and teachers provided detailed feedback and engaged in discussions with Council and COMPLETE staff. COMPLETE created and provided 7 A1 posters detailing information of the upcoming project, feedback questions and a dotmocracy activity for skatepark elements. Shellharbour City Council's Community Engagement Officer provided a flyer (refer to section 3) to distribute during the event for the upcoming community workshops at Albion Skate Park and Shellharbour Skate Park.

6.2 PHOTOS



Figure 11 Pop-up Stall at Reddall Reserve



Figure 12 Participants at Reddall Reserve

6.3 FEEDBACK

Attendees were enthusiastic about the new park. They were provided with sticky notes, various writing instruments to provide feedback on inclusions for the project. Attendee numbers were not recorded and participants were not required to register their name, in order to maintain an informal and relaxed approach to participation. That being said, it is estimated we spoke with approximately 75-100 community members at this event.

How do you roll?
• No seats near beginner jumps – I don't want people to watch while I'm learning
• Straight, not too steep jumps for rollerblading
• Roller Skating on Sloped Paths
• Make more ramps and kick to kick
• Scooter ramps and jumps.

Youth Centre Feedback
• Ping pong table
• Foosball
• Aboriginal Art Wall
• Indigenous Art
• Art Workshops
• Graffiti Wall
• Art Classes, opportunities to design things
• Cooking Classes in kitchen, hire kids,
• Girls only activities and workshops

• Graffiti Wall, Art classes, Sport activities, Kitchen
• Maybe make a rest place for if you feel upset
• Petting Zoo with bunnies, dogs, birds and much more.
• Dual Naming – Aboriginal names of things on them
• Make the bowl have a massive extension at the end and graffiti art on the ramps and bowl.
• Curved extension from the bowl
• Shoalhaven heads = good example, always busy – same as Minamurra

Harrison Park General Community Feedback
• Ensure all is accessible
• Include pickle ball
• Mountain biking like Cringilla
• Likes that Shellharbour Skate Park is located nearby 7/11 for snacks
• Big bowls, scooter balance beam
• Jumps BIG
• Skating, close to toilets, shade (man made)
• More beginner jumps
• Shade, Toilets, Greenery and Less Exposed
• Different Levels and Drop-ins
• Benches, Floral Patterns and Flower Garden
• Light pink + sage green colour scheme
• Scooter jumps & BMX jumps
• Basketball Courts
• Relaxing, Blissful, Big outdoor screen projector (watch sports etc)
• Big ramps to go up and down, kicker to kicker is cool!
• Bean bags, big opening when done!
• Street style skating, half pipes
• Comfortable seats, walkway through so you don't get into skaters way.
• Cruisy + fun, Bowl is a must have!
• Art, Graffiti Elements, Murals!
• Small footy posts (rugby league)

6.4 DOTMOCRACY

In addition to written feedback about the park, attendees were encouraged to participate in a dotmocracy in which they were given 3 votes (dot stickers) to place on the skate park elements that most appealed to them. These choices varied in difficulty, style and type and were provided to us by our consultants at Skate Sculpture. Boards were then created with images and labels which were then reviewed by Skate Sculpture and displayed at the pop-up stall.



Figure 13 Dotmocracy Results at Reddall Reserve

If each person voted 3 times as per instructions this activity had 56 participants. Due to the demographic present, there was a larger demographic of users aside from skateboarders such as people who ride scooters or bikes. Thus, leading to a higher preference for elements that favoured these riding instruments and a more transitional style overall.

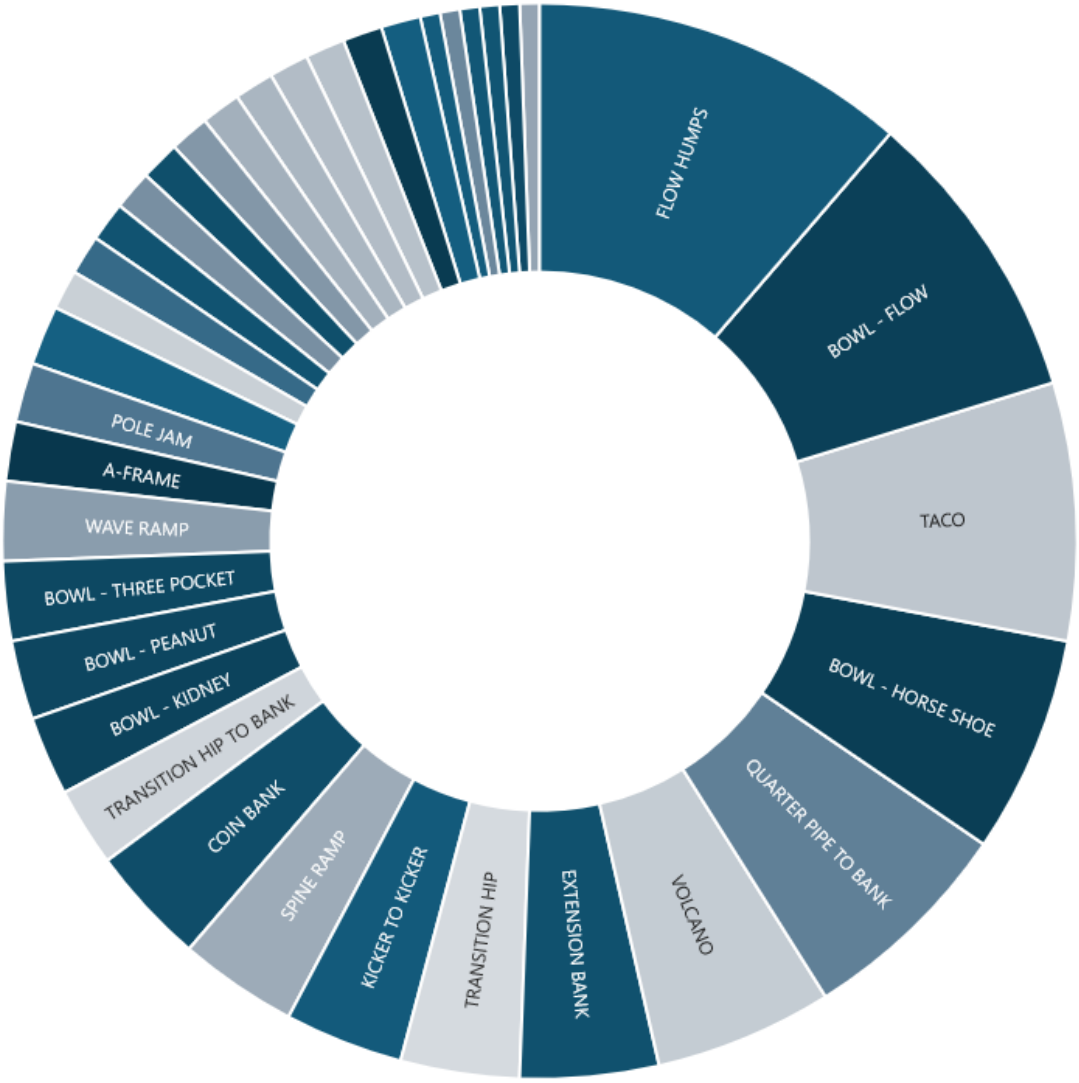


Figure 14 – Reddall Reserve Consultation Dotmocracy Results (27th May 2024)

Table 1 Dotmocracy Votes

SKATE PARK ELEMENT	NO. OF VOTES
FLOW HUMPS	19
BOWL - FLOW	15
TACO	13
BOWL - HORSE SHOE	11
QUARTER PIPE TO BANK	11
VOLCANO	9
EXTENSION BANK	7
COIN BANK	6
KICKER TO KICKER	6
SPINE RAMP	6
TRANSITION HIP	6
BOWL - KIDNEY	4
BOWL - PEANUT	4
BOWL - THREE POCKET	4
WAVE RAMP	4
TRANSITION HIP TO BANK	4
A-FRAME	3
WHEELCHAIR RAMP WITH RAILS	3
POLE JAM	3
BANK TO SIDEWAYS LEDGE	2
EURO GAP	2
EXTENSION	2
MANUAL COMBO FEATURE	2
PIER 7	2
SCULPTURAL ELEMENTS	2
SLAPPY BACK	2
STAIRS - DOUBLE SET	2
STAIRS - HUBBA RAIL	2
UP-DOWN LEDGE	2
STREET HIP	2
VOLCANO BANK	2
BRICK HIP	1
FLAT RAIL	1
FLAT LEDGE	1
MANUAL PAD	1
QUARTER PIPE	1
SLAPPY CURB	1
BANK TO LEDGE RAIL	0
FIRE HYDRANT	0
KINK RAIL	0
TOTAL VOTES	**168**

7. COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

7.1 OVERVIEW

On 30th and 31st of May, members of the community were invited to participate in workshops to provide further feedback regarding the proposed skate park at Harrison Park. Complete organised and brought A1 posters for comments, information and a dotmocracy activity as well as A3 sheets for a drawing exercise. In addition to the presence of COMPLETE's Urban Design Team, Mat de Koning from Skate Sculpture was in attendance to oversee the workshops. Shellharbour City Council provided supporting equipment to the event including staff, tables, easels, food, speakers and aided in advertising through socials.

7.2 LOCATIONS AND TIMING

In order to more accurately target the future demographic and userbase the community workshops were held in two local skate parks: Albion Skate Park and Shellharbour Skate Park. This ensures that the feedback and results of the dotmocracy and other comments are relevant as there were specific elements requiring input in which the general public would have limited understanding of.

These two locations were chosen to capture a diverse range of users. Many young people drop by both the Shellharbour Skate Park and Albion Park Skate Park on their way home from school and we wanted to capture this demographic. Albion Park Skate Park was also chosen due to the co-location of the skatepark with Albion Park Community Centre as this is an important hub for local Youth. This gave us great insight into how the future co-location of Blackbutt Youth Centre and the skatepark may intermix (e.g. the space is well-utilised by those using the skatepark, but also well-utilised by spectators or people just 'hanging out' after school).

Having the events on 2 separate days also gave people a chance to pick which day suited them best, and pop-ups were purposefully timed to capture those walking/riding home from school by starting at 3.30, as well as older skaters who could drop by after finishing work at 5pm.

7.3 PHOTOS



Figure 15 Albion Park Consultation



Figure 16 Albion Park Community Consultation



Figure 17 Albion Park Consultation



Figure 18 Albion Park Consultation



Figure 19 Albion Park Consultation



Figure 20 Shellharbour Skate Park Consultation



Figure 21 Shellharbour Skate Park Consultation



Figure 22 Shellharbour Skate Park Consultation



Figure 23 Shellharbour Skate Park Consultation

7.4 FEEDBACK

The attendees had the following information to include for feedback:

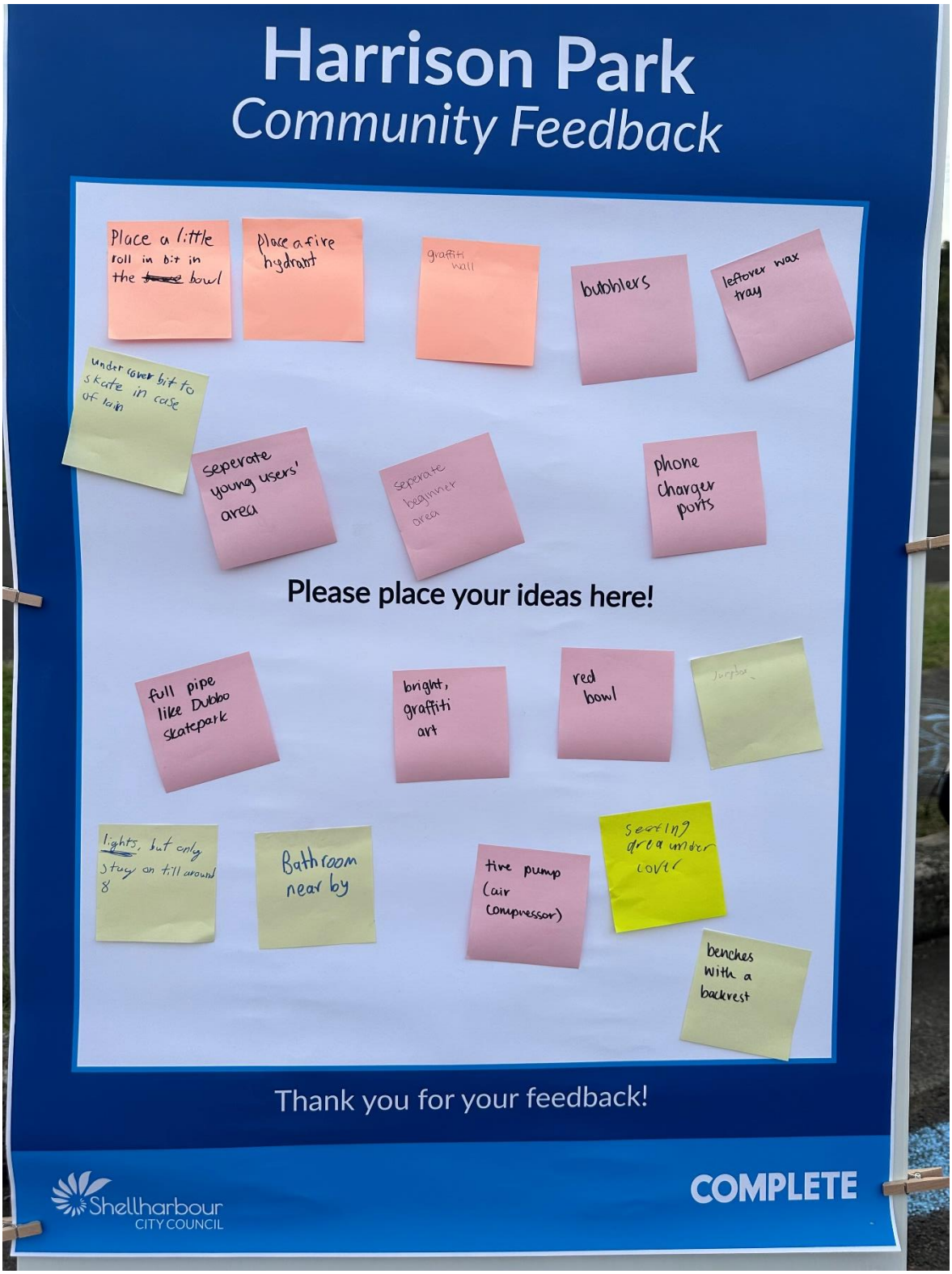


Figure 24 Community Feedback at Albion Park

Harrison Park Feedback at Albion Park and Shellharbour Skate Park (30th - 31st May 2024)
• Pump track or skate park at Lake Illawarra
• Would like a half pipe
• Leftover wax tray
• Bubblers
• Graffiti Wall
• Place a Fire Hydrant
• Roll-in element for the bowl
• Undercover area to skate in for protection against rain and sun
• Would like a jump box
• Separate area for younger users
• Soft roll-in to bowl for beginners
• Flow features for bikes/ BMX
• Separate area for beginners
• Jumps for bikes
• Phone charger ports
• Darker bowl (non-reflective)
• Wet weather shelter – cover from rain
• Jump box
• Red bowl
• Bright graffiti art
• Full pipe like Dubbo Skatepark
• Lighting but only until around 8pm
• Slappy kerb for older skaters
• Nearby bathroom
• Albion Park BMX track is a good example
• Tire pump (air compressor)
• Undercover seating area
• Box Jump
• Benches with backrests
• 1 x light at Shellharbour
• Campbelltown = good pump track for different experience levels
• “It needs lights, it gets dark too early in winter”
• “Coffee van nearby on weekends” – from parent
• “Something for everyone”
• Soccer nets
• Black painted bowl – can’t see skids
• Pump track, dirt jumps, bubblers – button lights, bins, lights on until 10pm – berry lights different during the week
• Drainage for the bowl
• Fireproof bin

• Not as vert. as Shellharbour bowl
• Flow bowl x 2
• Basketball court x 2
• Pump track x2
• Kids take themselves to skate parks
• Shellharbour bowl = too steep, like Berkeley
• Belconnen = smooth roll-in x2 – good for scooters, skate and bikes
• Flow humps = build up speed on bikes
• Playground
• Toilets
• Little kids like the pump track
• Dirt jumps for bikes x2
• Pump track = good for smooth stars
• Foam pit to fall into
• Curbs
• Albion Park needs a pump track
• Roll-in entry
• Lights very important
• More experienced skaters
• Lights set to gradually fade -> time to get to your car OR push button lights
• Bathrooms for girls including sanitary bins
• Predominantly scooters and BMX
• Bumpy bits for beginners – build up speed before dropping in
• Hard to get to Shellharbour
• Variety in drop-in
• Bowl, roll-in for beginners
• Transition hip to bank = beginner
• Flow bowl, quarter pipe to bank and bowl horseshoe good for BMX
• Bubbler
• Phone charging
• Bikes and scooters
• Benches with a back
• Mostly intermediate/beginner skaters

7.5 DOTMOCRACY

In addition to written feedback about the park, attendees were encouraged to participate in a dotmocracy in which they were given 3 votes (dot stickers) to place on the skate park elements that most appealed to them. These choices varied in difficulty, style and type and were provided to us by our consultants at Skate Sculpture. Boards were then created with images and labels which were then reviewed by Skate Sculpture and displayed at the pop-up stall.

If each person voted 3 times as per instructions this activity had 125 participants. Not everyone in attendance completed the dotmocracy, with some preferring to offer conversational feedback. It is anticipated that across the 2 sessions, we spoke with approximately 200 community members.



Figure 25 – Dotmocracy on Skate Park Posters

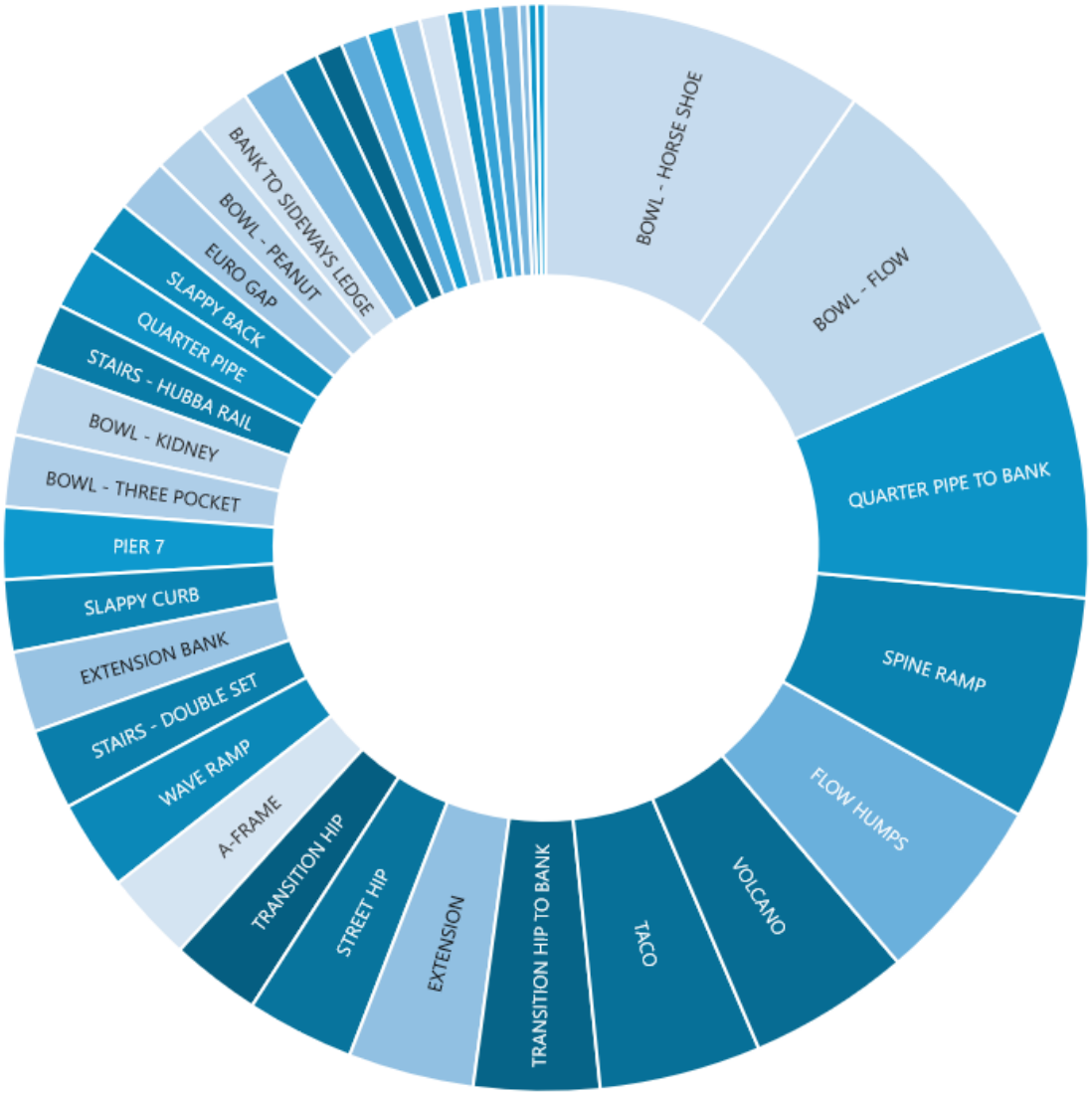


Figure 26 – Albion Park and Shellharbour Skate Park Dotmocracy Results (30th-31st May 2024)

Table 2 Dotmocracy Votes

SKATE PARK ELEMENT	NO. OF VOTES
BOWL - HORSE SHOE	36
BOWL - FLOW	33
QUARTER PIPE TO BANK	30
SPINE RAMP	25
FLOW HUMPS	21
TACO	18
VOLCANO	18
EXTENSION	14
TRANSITION HIP TO BANK	14
STREET HIP	12
A-FRAME	10
WAVE RAMP	10
TRANSITION HIP	10
EXTENSION BANK	9
STAIRS - DOUBLE SET	9
BOWL - KIDNEY	8
BOWL - THREE POCKET	8
PIER 7	8
SLAPPY CURB	8
QUARTER PIPE	7
STAIRS - HUBBA RAIL	7
BANK TO SIDEWAYS LEDGE	6
BOWL - PEANUT	6
EURO GAP	6
SLAPPY BACK	6
FLAT RAIL	5
UP-DOWN LEDGE	4
BANK TO LEDGE RAIL	3
COIN BANK	3
KICKER TO KICKER	3
WHEELCHAIR RAMP WITH RAILS	3
VOLCANO BANK	3
FLAT LEDGE	2
MANUAL PAD	2
KINK RAIL	2
SCULPTURAL ELEMENTS	2
FIRE HYDRANT	1
MANUAL COMBO FEATURE	1
POLE JAM	1
BRICK HIP	0
TOTAL VOTES	**374**

7.6 SKATE PARK SKETCHES

Attendees were invited to sketch up a skate park on a rough footprint of the skate park provided by Skate Sculpture. A bowl flow was a common skate park element shown on the sketches.



Figure 27 Sketching skate parks at Shellharbour Skate Park



Figure 28 Sketching skate parks at Albion Park



Figure 29 Participants showing off their skate park sketches at Shellharbour Skate Park



Figure 30 Participants showing off their skate park sketches at Albion Park



Figure 31 Participant's Skate Park Design A

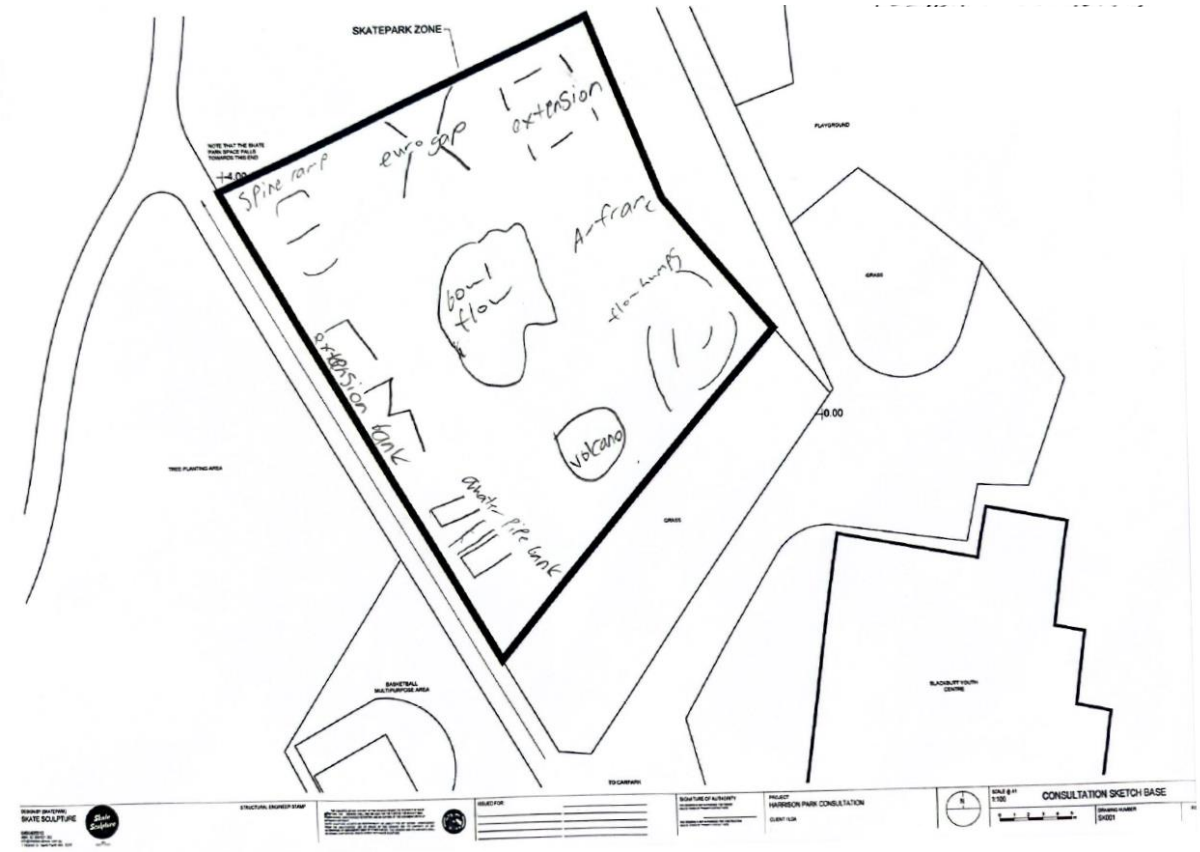


Figure 32 Participant's Skate Park Design B

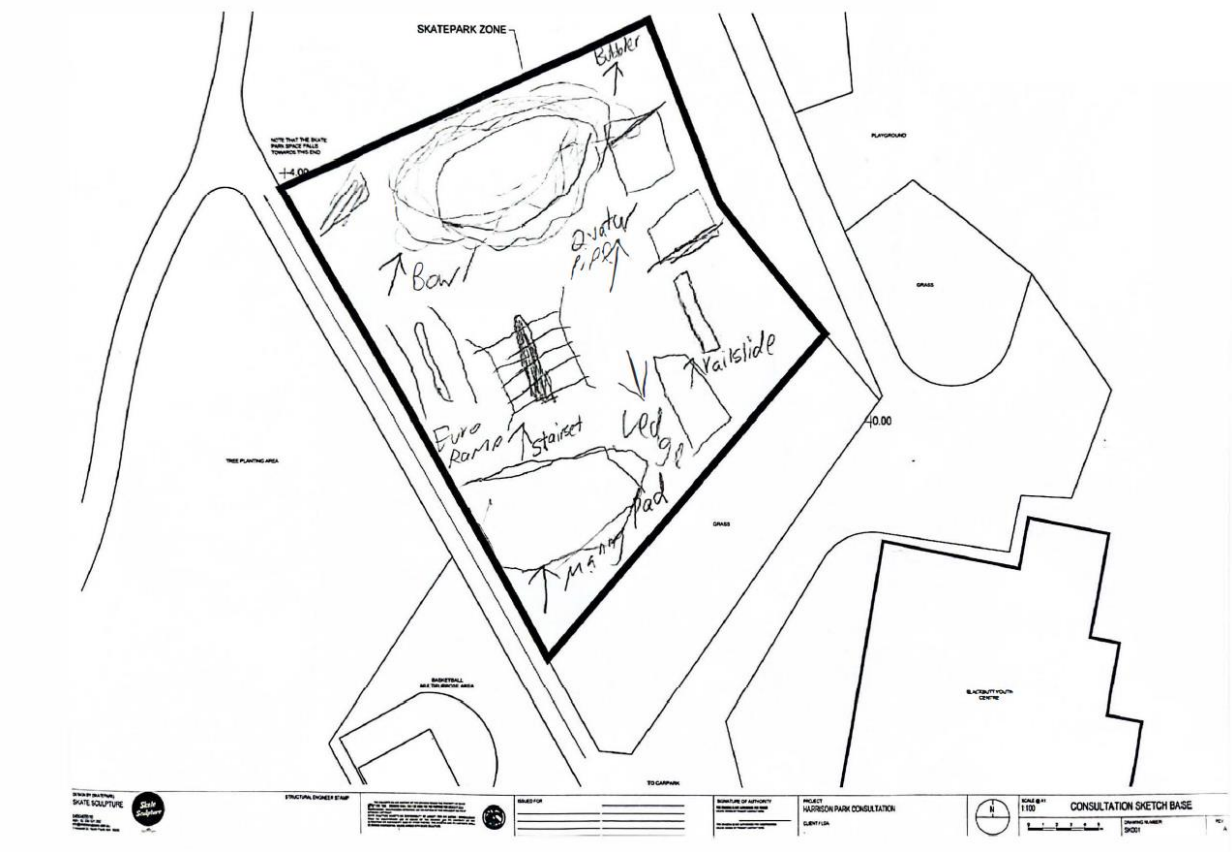


Figure 33 Participant's Skate Park Design C

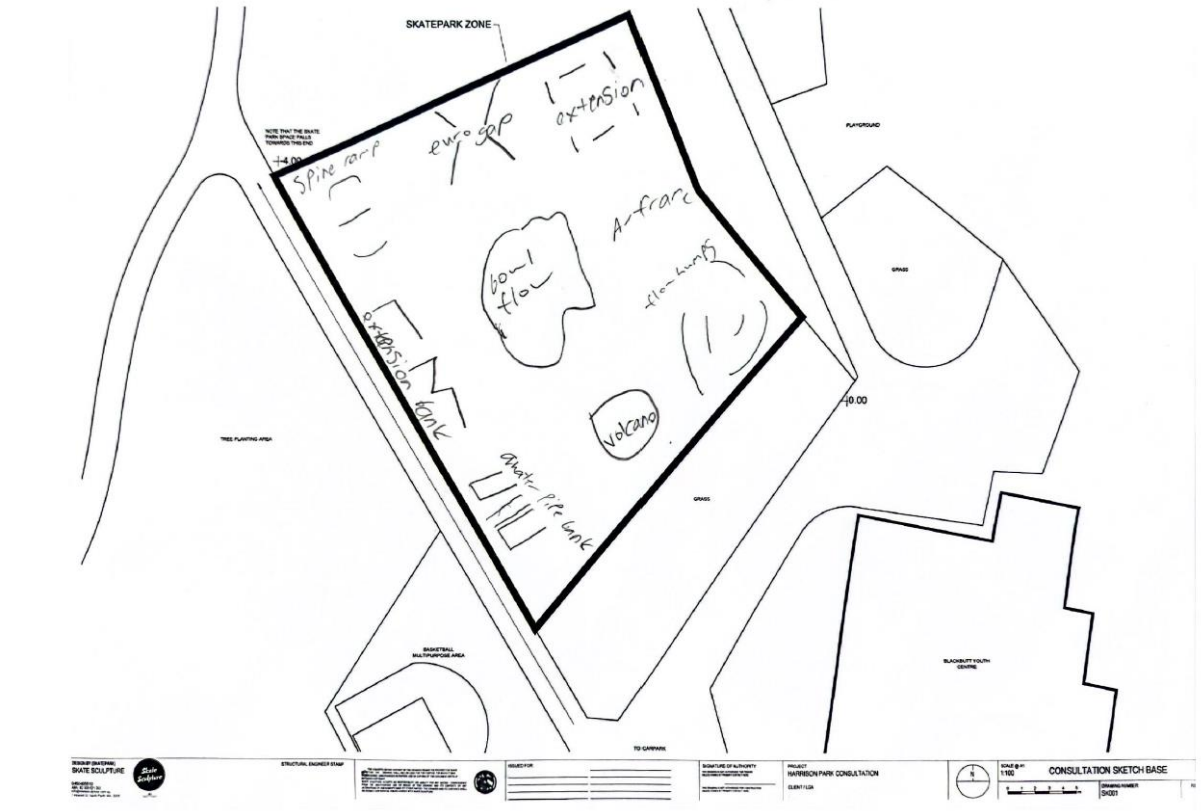


Figure 34 Participant's Skate Park Design D

8. WHAT WE HEARD

8.1 KEY THEMES

Preference for flow/park elements over street elements

The overall vibe should be relaxed, cruisy, fun, 'an oasis'

Skateboarding is becoming more popular and accessible - it's even an Olympic sport now. There is growing demand for skate facilities as the sport becomes more popular.

People use skate parks in a range of ways, not just for skateboarding - our skateparks are popular spots for people to scooter, ride bikes, or just hang out

The skate park should have something for everybody, to suit different experience levels, ages, and genders.

Suggested ancillary features:

- Landscaping
- Seating
- Shade
- Undercover areas
- Drinking Water
- Quieter, peaceful rest areas
- Lighting for skaters and youth who are working and therefore want to skate from 5.30-8.30pm year round.

A beginner area located separately from the more advanced skaters would allow beginners to feel more comfortable and safe.

8.2 DEMOGRAPHIC

Across the three in-person sessions, it is estimated we spoke with approximately 250 - 300) community members. We reached our targeted demographic of youth users (those aged 24 and younger), with majority of respondents falling in the 10 - 18 year old age bracket.

Young males made up the highest portion of our respondents during this phase of community consultation. It was observed that young females felt intimated by the slightly older males during the community workshops, resulting in a hesitancy to participate and to share their ideas. It is easy to see how this intimidation could translate to the skate park if measures were not in place to reduce barriers to female participation.

Reducing barriers to female participation in skating, BMX riding and similar activities across Shellharbour LGA involves considering some large-scale socio-cultural challenges.

8.2.1 Reducing barriers to female participation in skating, BMX riding and similar activities across Shellharbour LGA involves considering some large-scale socio-cultural challenges

In the past people have viewed skateboarding and BMX riding as a more masculine behaviour. This attitude is now shifting, with female participation in the sport on the rise. According to Ausplay Data (Adventurous Spaces – A best practice guide for bringing adventure play into public open spaces (nsw.gov.au)) 1.3% of all males skate, compared to 1% of all females. The design of the skate park should support the continued advancement of women's and girls' participation in this sport.

Some factors to consider during the detailed design phase may include:

- Implement measures to make the park safer, such as improved lighting and clear site lines for passive surveillance;
- Accessibility of ancillary features such as toilets;
- Careful placement of social seating or areas where large groups may congregate;
- Separate beginner area for those starting out, so they don't feel intimidated by experienced skaters watching them learn.

These efforts are intended to create a welcoming and supportive environment for female skaters within the Harrison Park Multipurpose Youth Area. Female participation can be further encouraged by ongoing initiatives organised by Council to foster an inclusive local skating community, such as spotlighting female role models and developing strong female community connections.

8.2.2 Age and Experience Level

The Harrison Park Multipurpose Youth Area skate park needs to cater to users of varying levels of skating, scootering, and BMX experience. Both beginner users and experienced skaters use the existing skate parks within the Shellharbour LGA.

During the community workshops, Council's Engagement Officer had a conversation with a middle-aged male who is an experienced skater. He said that he and his friends come down to Shellharbour Skate Park around 7am but clear out once the school kids start passing through on their way to school. They also avoid the area after school to not get in each other's way. He then went on to say how lights could improve this issue, because it would give the older demographic of skaters a chance to skate later in the evening after school kids have gone home. In addition, having separate areas for different levels of experience could also help this issue.



Figure 35 Poster with Experience Level on 27 May 2024



Figure 36 Beginner skater at Shellharbour Skate Park



Figure 37 Intermediate skater at Shellharbour Skate Park



Figure 38 Experienced scooter user at Albion Park



Figure 39 Experienced BMX user at Albion Park



Figure 40 Poster with Community Feedback on 27 May 2024

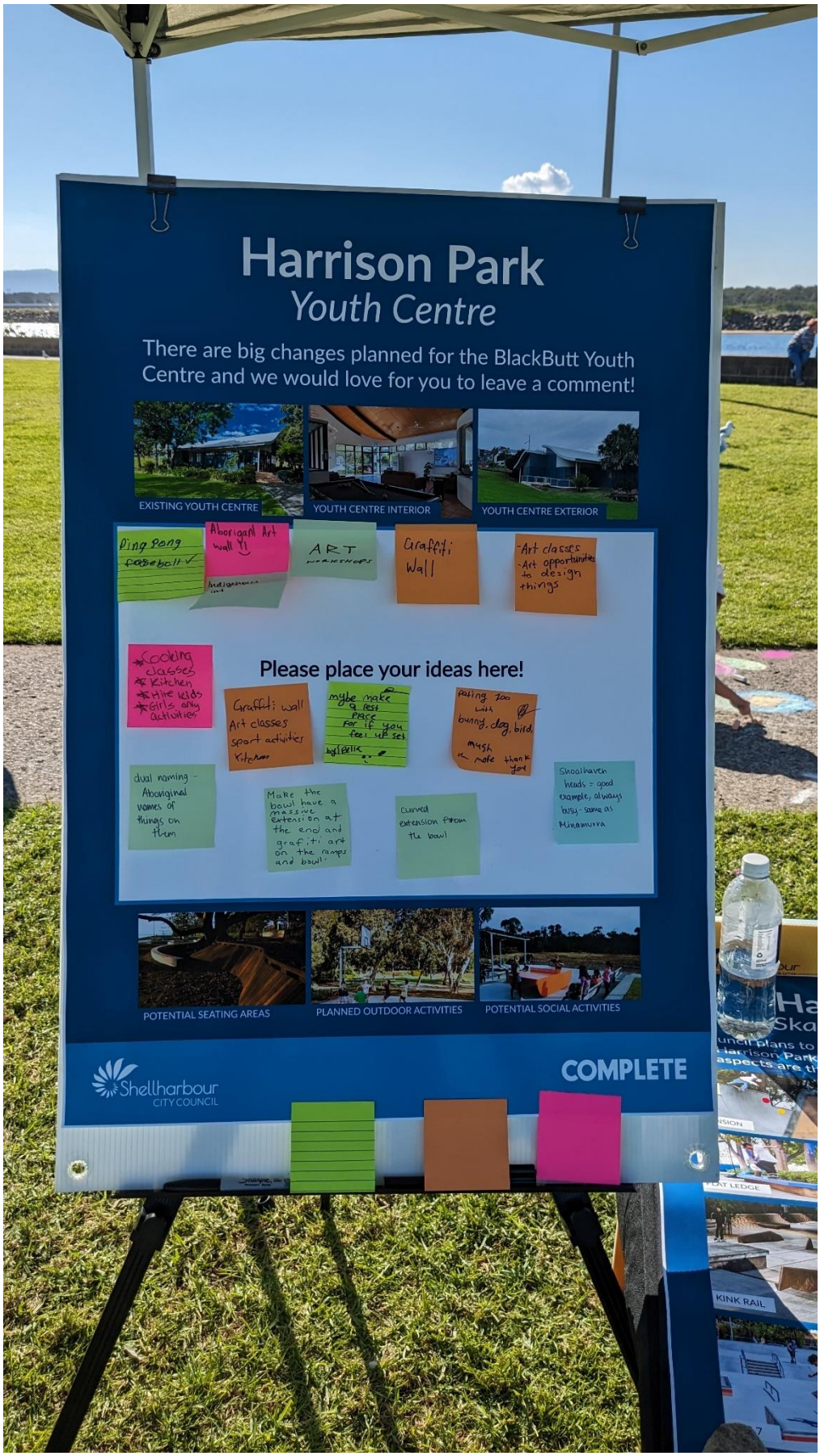


Figure 41 Poster with Community Feedback on 27 May 2024

8.3 PREFERRED SKATE OBSTACLES

We had a Dotmocracy vote to determine the skate elements that are preferred.

The general preference was for 'Park' based skate elements rather than 'Street' based elements.

As the majority of users were scooter or bike users, multi-functional elements, and those suiting beginners were preferred.

The Top 10 preferred elements (each with >10 votes) in order of preference were:

1. **Bowl – Flow**



2. **Bowl – Horseshoe**



3. Quarter pipe to bank



4. Spine ramp



5. Flow Humps



6. Taco



7. Volcano



8. Transition Hip to bank



9. Extension



10. Street Hip



9. Q&A WITH FELICITY TURNER

In addition to the pop up and workshop engagement sessions, Skate Sculpture reached out to Felicity 'Flic' Turner for her ideas for the new proposed skate park at Harrison Park Multipurpose Youth Area, whilst considering the other skate park offerings in the surrounding areas.

9.1 PROFILE

Flic is a Wollongong local whose passion for skateboarding started when she found an old board on the side of the road about 6-years ago. She started learning to skate at her local parks, including Shellharbour, and has been shredding the parks and streets of the Illawarra ever since.

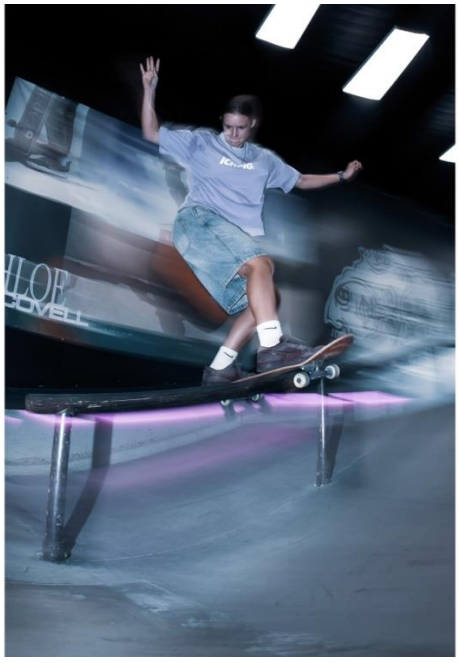
Flic started competing in local skate competitions, then travelled interstate on the Rumble Pro Tour where she is currently ranked 1st in Women's Street. More recently Flic has been competing internationally in World Skate events in the hope to qualify for the Paris 2024 Olympics where she is currently ranked 26th. Apart from progressing her own skating, Flic has spent countless hours teaching and sharing her passion for skateboarding.

She has been involved in many community workshops with Totem Collective teaching skateboarding and travelling to remote communities to deliver their programmes. It's safe to say between learning to skate herself and teaching others there is not a skatepark between Sydney and Canberra that Flic has not skated.

Flic's sponsors include: Nike SB, Toy Machine, Slappy Trucks, Modus Bearings, Kingpin and Ichpig.

Flic's Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/felicity_turner/





9.2 SKATE PARK REVIEW

To ensure the Harrison Park Skatepark positively contributes to the diversification of skate terrain on offer in the region, Flic has reviewed the following surrounding skate parks;

9.2.1 Berry Skatepark

Distance from Harrison Park: 38km South



Berry is one of the biggest parks in our area, which makes it flow when skating. Its size and flow are also good for when there's lots of people there as there's always something to skate. I think what makes Berry the best park is its variety. It has obstacles that start small, but you can work your way up to bigger more challenging obstacles, which makes it inclusive for all abilities. The main street features in this skatepark are the out & down rail, out ledge, 5 stair, handrail, big hubbas, euro. Then for transition skaters there's a beginner level two section bowl joined by a spine, pump bump and tranny hip, a flow section with low level transition, plus a Pump Track which keeps some of the younger riders off the skatepark when it's too busy. There are also Light to make the park accessible at night.

9.2.2 Berkeley Skatepark

Distance from Harrison Park: 20.6km North



Berkeley is a good skatepark although once it gets crowded it is almost impossible to skate as there is only really one path to take back and forth. The main obstacles in this park are the out & down rail (although I think people would prefer a round rail), euro gap, street hip, 2 block, horseshoe bowl. There are no lights at this park.

9.2.3 Miranda Skatepark

Distance from Harrison Park: 84km North



Miranda is one of the most recently built parks, is big, fun and has something for everyone. The street course is a bit one way as you pick up a lot of speed from one direction more than the other, and trying to skate the other way is hard to get any speed for tricks. It has a good variety of street features for everyone including a 6-stair with rail and hubba, double set (2 flat 2), kink rail. flat garden bed out ledges and a pyramid. Also, medium and large size three pockets bowls and the park has lights.

9.2.4 Wilton Skatepark

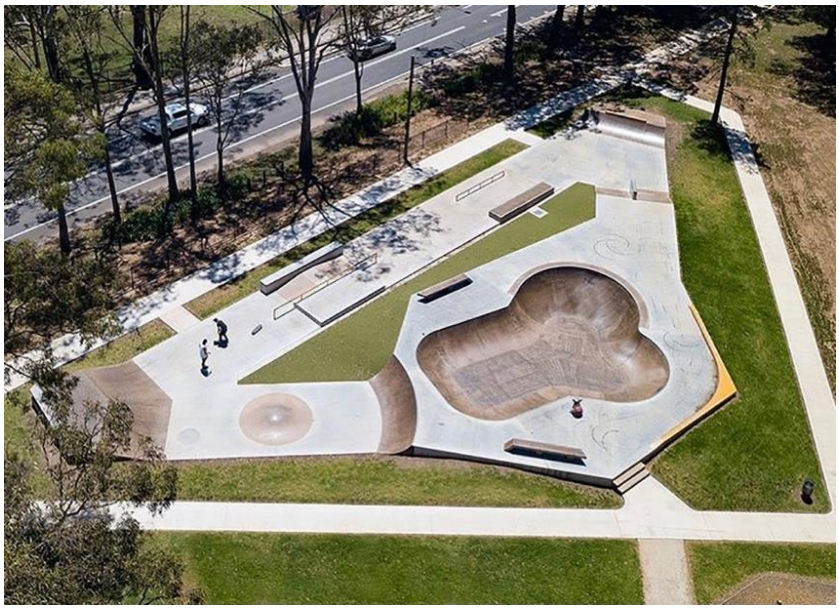
Distance from Harrison Park: 60km North West



Although Wilton is small in size and fairly simplistic in design, it's crazy how well you can progress there because of how small and perfect the obstacles are for learning new tricks. This definitely helps with confidence and progression. Main obstacles here are out & down rail, out & down ledge, flat ledge, flat bar, hip and quarter pipe to bank. There are no lights.

9.2.5 Appin Skatepark

Distance from Harrison Park: 62km North



Appin has good features although it can be hard when other people are at Appin as there is one skinny path that makes it difficult for more than two-people to pass through. The best obstacles there are out ledge and rail, manny pad, street hip, 6-stair with rail. Also a medium size three pocket bowl with no lights.

9.2.6 Fairy Meadow Skatepark

Distance from Harrison Park: 25km North



Fairy meadow is a fun circular flowing park, not everything is this skatepark gets used a lot of the time. I think the main features used are the hip, quarter pipes, flat ledge, wave wall. Also vert ramp with no lights.

9.2.7 Shellharbour Skatepark

Distance from Harrison Park: 7km



Shellharbour has some fun street objects on a L shaped course. The two steet gaps are good for intermediate and advanced riders. The two hubbas are good dimensions for stepping to this style of obstacle, however it would have been more functional if they continued these ledges across the top platform to create 'bank to ledges'. There's some out of the ordinary features in the street course and the three-pocket bowl with a big 'pool coping' extension for those wanting a more advanced transition experience.

9.3 WHAT THE REGION IS MISSING

Almost all the bowls (with the exception of Berry), are the same standard three pocket shape, and while they vary in size, they don't vary much in style. It would be great to have more of a combination flow bowl like Linda Vista (located in San Diego California), that offers a mix of features such as a spine, banks, flow humps, hips, and channels.

There are two 6-stairs, and a 5-stair in the region, but nothing that steps into the more advanced category. Most competition stair sets for the likes of Street League and the Olympics are 8-stairs and above. It would be great to have an 8-stair minimal, or alternatively a double-set with kink rail.

Most of the parks are the 'bowl and plaza' style, so something with more of a 'hybrid flow' section would be appealing. And for street riders, there definitely needs to be more slappy curbs.

9.4 WHAT FLIC HOPES TO SEE IN THE FUTURE HARRISON PARK SKATE PARK

Personally, I hope the future Harrison Park Skatepark has a variety of obstacles, is inclusive to everyone's ability while having room to progress, has good flow around the park, with all obstacles being to proportion. In my opinion it's good to have a flat section with smaller features as well as a place with a bump to rail or ledge, and a big stair section as well!

10. CONCLUSION

From the riders in attendance at the Albion Park Skate Park and Shellharbour Skate Park consultation sessions, there was a clear demand to see a more transition focused design for the Harrison Park Skate Park. Of the 15 most popular skatepark obstacles, only 3 were street obstacles. Based on this result, it could be suggested that a ratio of 80% transition, 20% street would be an appropriate response.

However, of the more intermediate skateboarders in attendance who were highly invested in the outcome, there was a strong desire for street, and it should be noted that several of the region's high profile skateboarders including Felicity Turner and Daniel Woolley, were not in attendance at the consultations, but have requested to be involved in the development of the concept designs.

Felicity Turner is currently in contention for a qualifying spot in the Australian Olympic Skateboarding team. She believes for Shellharbour to accommodate training for competition skating, a 'big section' consisting of a large stair set with rails and ledges would be ideal.

In interviews to camera from the local riders, and throughout the comments section, there was much emphasis on having 'jumps' within the skatepark. Obstacles that cater to aerial manoeuvres such as jump-boxes and quarter-pipe to banks.

Based on the City of Shellharbour's proposal for a 1,000m2 skatepark footprint, the consultation data has shown a desire for the design to consist of:

- A combination flow bowl hosting multiple transition features.
- A large stair set (6-8) with handrails, hubbas, and a euro gap.
- Transition dominant flow zone with many 'aerial' boosting obstacles.
- A few key staple street elements including a flat ledge, rail and slappy curbs.

This approach will best respond to the request of the local riders, add to the diversity of terrain on offer in the region, cater to skateboarders, scooter and BMX riders of mainly beginner to intermediate status, whilst still providing attractions for the more advanced riders to train for competitions and perform demonstrations.

Given the slope of the site, the proposed design will have to step down the embankment in terraces, like Kalamunda Skate Park (and playground) designed by Skate Sculpture, which tiers down over 3 levels. The embankments between can be planted for shade & seating areas.



Figure 42 Kalamunda Skate Park designed by Skate Sculpture

Click to view a video of the facility.

As there are a combination of user types including skaters, scooters, and BMX bike users, a multifunctional facility with flexible elements that caters to all users will suit best.

APPENDIX A – POSTERS USED DURING THE ENGAGEMENT



Figure 43 A1 Poster #1



Figure 44 A1 Poster #2



Figure 45 A1 Poster #3

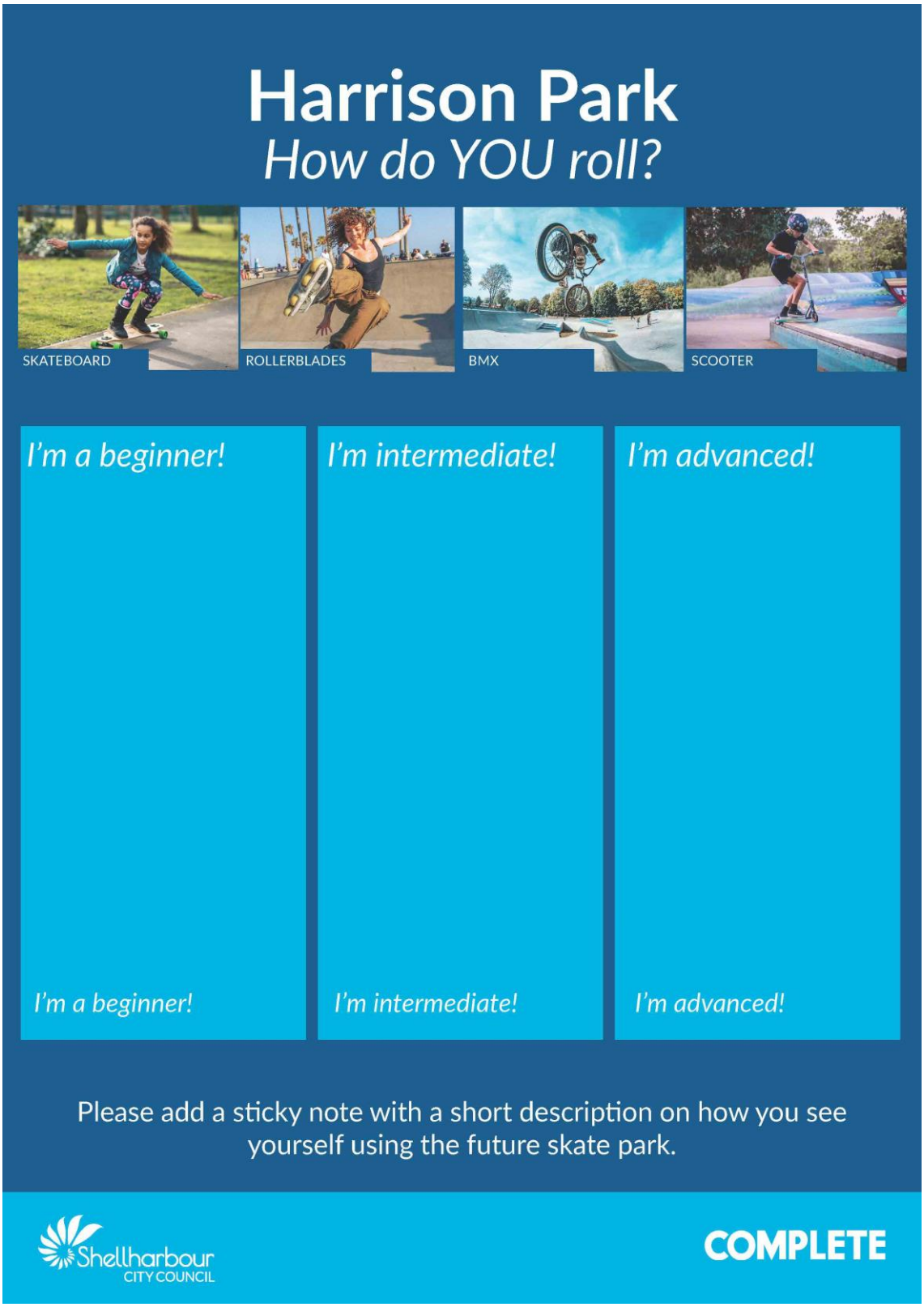


Figure 46 A1 Poster #4

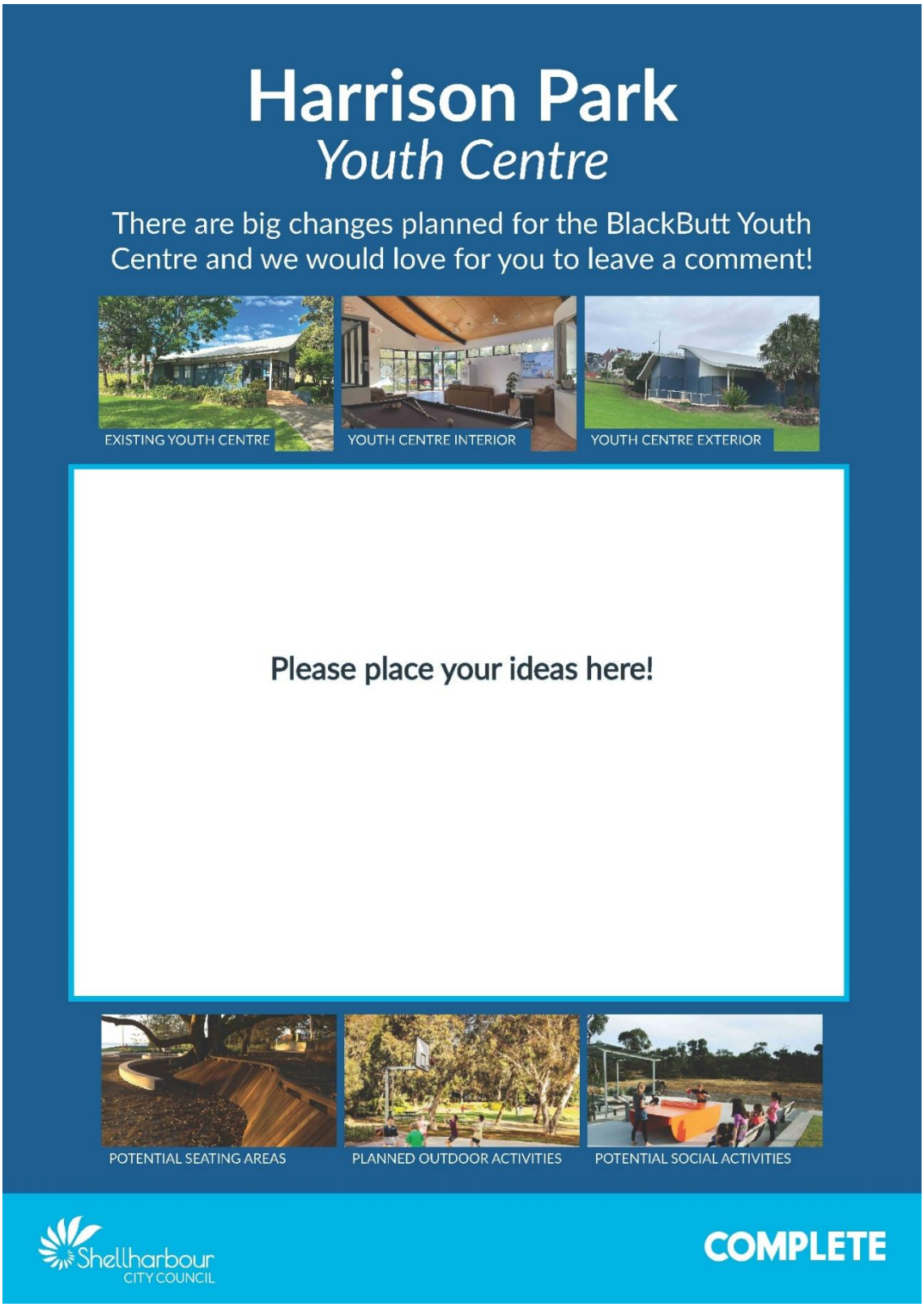


Figure 47 A1 Poster #5

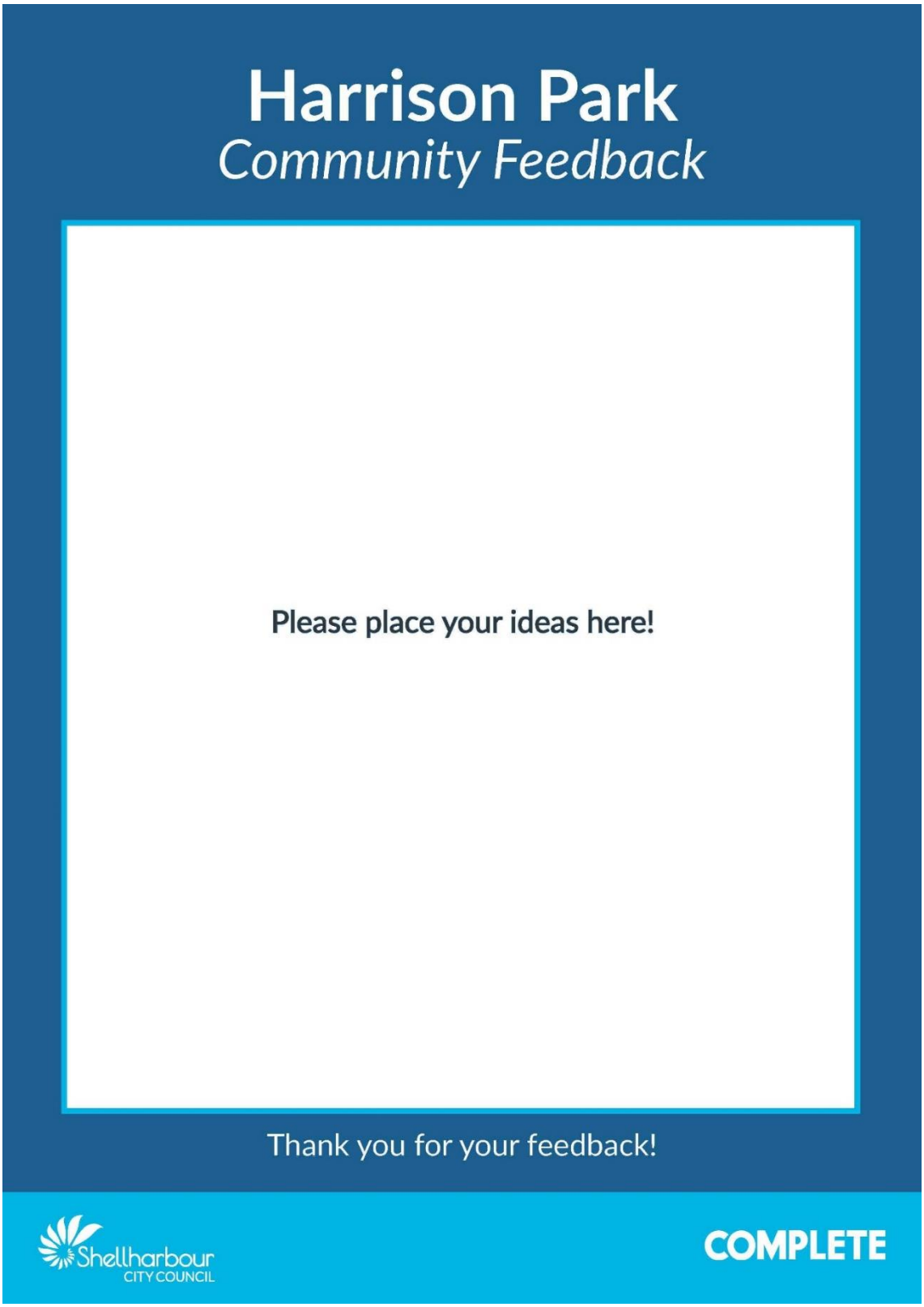


Figure 48 A1 Poster #6

APPENDIX B – ILLAWARRA MERCURY ARTICLE

ILLAWARRA MERCURY

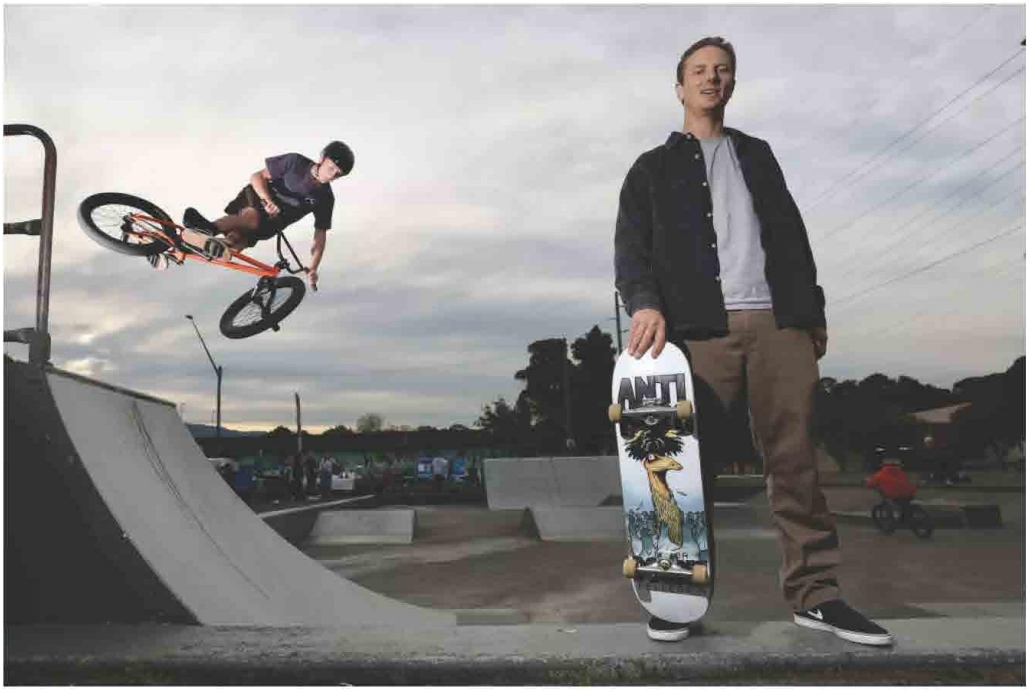
view Illawarra Mercury's complete view of property

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Shellharbour council hits the skate parks to tap into design ideas



By Joel Ehsman
Updated June 2 2024 - 8:52am, first published May 31 2024 - 5:44pm



Left: Josh Samways on his bike. Right: Mat de Koning from Skate Sculpture at Albion Park skate park. Picture by Adam McLean

Where better to go to get help on skate park designs than skate parks?

That's exactly what Shellharbour City Council – at Albion Park and Shellharbour – as it works on plans for a new park.

The council bought in Mat de Koning and Tim Yuen, from skatepark design and construction company Skate Sculpture, to help with the consultation process.

They used "dotmocracy". Locals of all skill levels were were asked what they wanted to see at the new park. They were then given five stickers to place on those features.

Ad removed.
Show details

Riders at Albion Park skate park on the day of the pop-up session hearing community ideas for a new park in Harrison Park. Video by Adam McLean

"From this when they rock up to see the brand new skate park, they're going to go, 'yeah that's the type of stuff that I wanted to see in the future skate park'," Mr de Koning said.

Mr de Koning has been designing skate parks for 10 years and says while it can be a subjective art, there are fundamental rules which need to be followed.

"Obstacles angles that are not properly functional, spacings and positionings that aren't correct."

The Albion Park skate park has a five-foot bank which is pointed to a dead-end which can cause injuries.

"You will never see a modern skate park do this because the speed that you gain from that going over there, it's now sending you directly into a wall.

"That is fundamentally flawed in a skate park."

Josh Samways has been going to the Albion Park skate park for 13 years and shared his opinion on what was needed at a new park.

"I prefer a bowl so that we can ride it on the BMXs and it makes it fun," Josh said. "So you can practice tricks and stuff to then push forward slope-style."

A place for the community

Mr De Koning believes a good skate park can only benefit the community.

"It gives them a good reason to catch the bus, to do the dishes so their parents are willing to drive them to a new facility," he said.

"It's giving them a place to be more social, it's giving them a place to be more active, they're going to make more friends.

"You might be seeing future Olympians come because you've got a facility that could allow development and growth on top of that."

He pointed to the popularity of Albion Park skate park (even with its issues) on Thursday afternoon as the sun went down.

"Right now, this facility is probably not all that appealing to the masses and it's full of kids using it."

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Joel Ehsman
Reporter

Reporter at the Illawarra Mercury, experiencing life near the beach.

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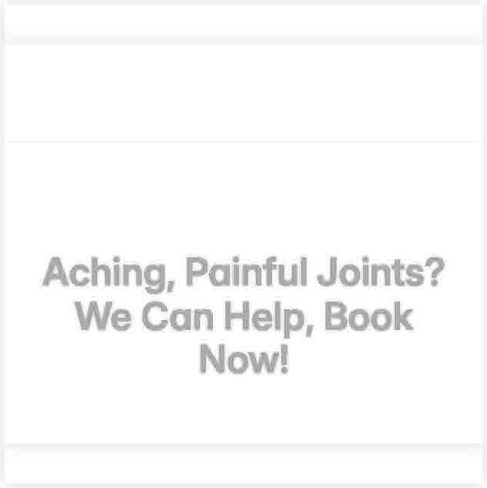
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APPENDIX C – DOTMOCRACY TOTAL COUNT

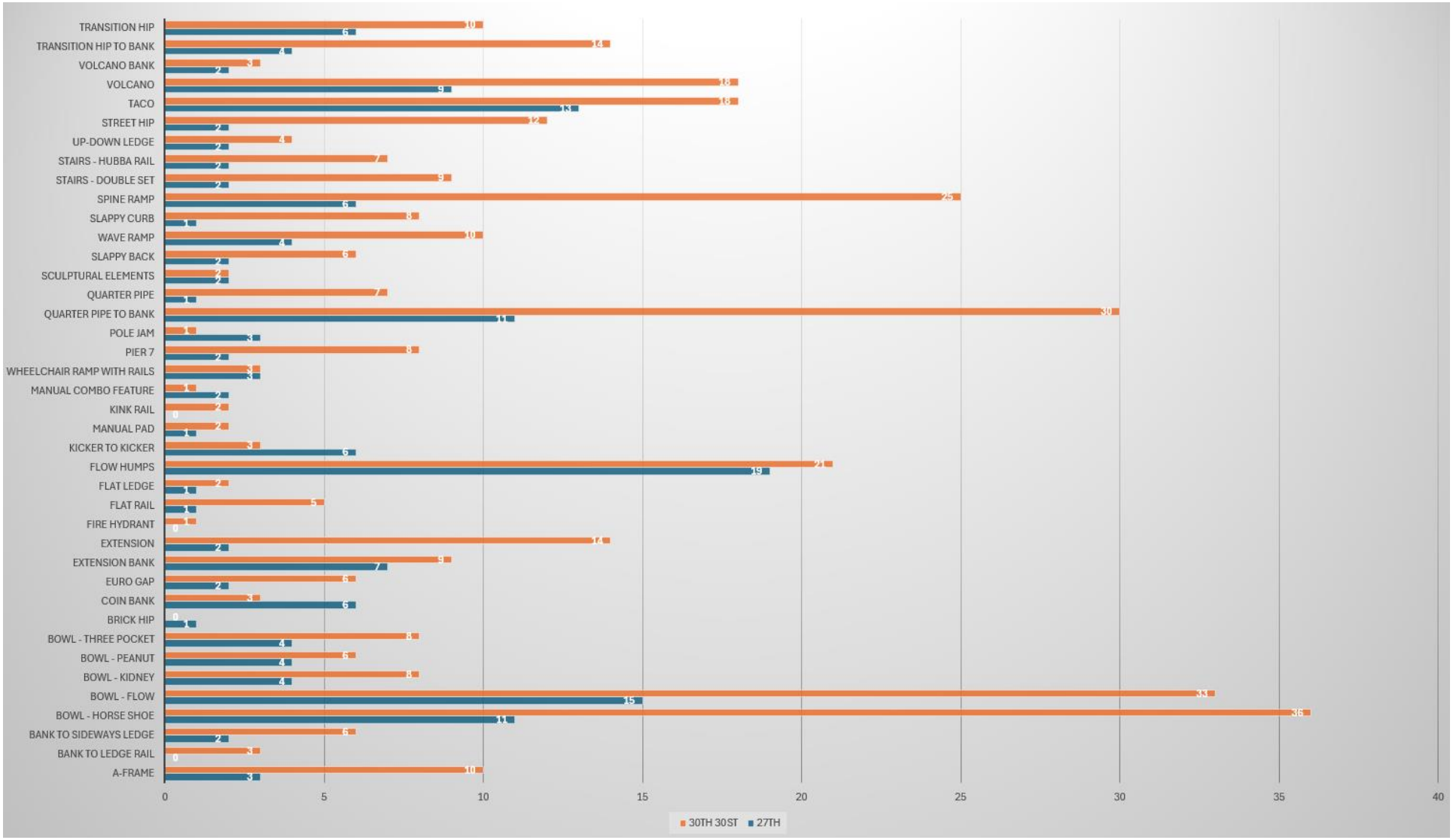


Figure 49 Dotmocracy Grand Total Count



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