

# SKATE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Absolutely Positively  
Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Pōneke



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## Executive Summary

Skating has become a popular activity in Wellington, with hundreds of locals using public spaces such as skate parks, streets and DIY skate spaces each week to keep active. Skate has also become a popular activity among young people; research from Sport NZ indicates that young people are dropping out of traditional, organised sports such as rugby and cricket, and instead participating more in unstructured, recreational activities such as skating, parkour and surfing<sup>1</sup>.

We engaged with over 800 representatives of the Wellington skate community and were able to understand their demographics, behaviours and future needs to develop a skate plan that helps guide decisions around the provision, location and management of skate in Wellington City. We heard that the skate community want better access and permission to skate spaces around the City, including better provision for beginners and young people, scooters and spectators as well as better training opportunities and facilities for those who want to skate at higher levels.

The feedback we received from community engagement has been summarised into three key findings, these include:

1. Improved accessibility;
2. Improved design and maintenance of skateable facilities;
3. Increased public space permission for skaters; and
4. Improved access to support and funding for skate groups.

In addition, the Wellington skate community shared their thoughts on Wellington City Council's (Council) skate assets, making constructive recommendations for Council to consider when supporting the growth of skate in Wellington City.

These recommendations are linked to the key findings (listed previously) and include:

- Accessibility:
  - Adequate provision of skate throughout Wellington (parks & skateable spots); and
  - Ensure skate parks offer a range of elements that cater to varying levels and abilities of users and allow for progression
- Future design and maintenance:
  - Upgrade and maintain existing skate facilities; and
  - Work with Wellington Skate Association to improve the future design of skate facilities
- Permission:
  - Ensure there are skate and scooter-friendly public areas in Wellington City;
  - Improve public acceptance and awareness of skaters; and
  - Improve sharing of public space, conflict of users and pedestrian safety
- Access to support and funding:
  - Support the skate community to improve play, sport and recreational opportunities in Wellington City; and

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<sup>1</sup> Sport New Zealand, Active New Zealand Survey 2017/18, 2018, <https://sportnz.org.nz/managing-sport/research-and-insights/active-nz/active-nz-survey-2018/>

- Continue to engage with and consult the skate community to ensure mutually beneficial outcomes

Community engagement has highlighted both opportunities and challenges which should be considered in conjunction with other research, and consulted with the skate community when constructing an action plan for skate in Wellington City.

This report summarises the feedback and key findings and recommendations from our community engagement.



## Introduction

This project has resulted from the Play Spaces Policy that Council adopted in 2017<sup>2</sup>. The Policy reflects on the importance of providing a range of play spaces, including skate parks and other outdoor recreation spaces and places for young people. Information gathered from the Policy identifies the need for greater engagement with the skate community. The aim of this consultation is to plan, prioritise and consider funding for new and existing skate spaces and activity across Wellington City.

Sport NZ's Play Principles have influenced this project, in particular the key principles of time, space and permission<sup>3</sup>. More specifically, time in which young people have or are given to play, changes to both the built and natural environment which has resulted in changed access to traditional 'open' play spaces, and permission to play – the explicit allowance for one to be able to engage in free and unobstructed play. Throughout this project, interestingly, we noticed that key themes which emerged align with these principles and most commonly relate to **space** and **permission**.

## What is Skate?

'Skate activity' or 'skating' refers to any activity that uses a small wheeled device to grind, slide or rise on different surfaces and elements<sup>4</sup>. There are many different devices used to skate, including skateboards, scooters, longboards and more. Each device however has different spatial needs and cultures associated with them.

There are four different styles of skating<sup>4</sup>. The key four styles which are currently popular in Wellington are street, park, transitional and longboarding (or cruising).

Style	What?
Street	Street style skaters use public spaces such as plazas, forecourts, squares, streets and footpaths. They use typical urban street furniture such as kerbs, benches, rails and walls to ride, grind and slide on.
Park	Park style skaters use dedicated skate parks and spaces designed for skating. Much like street skaters, these skaters use skate park obstacles such as fun-boxes, manual pads, banks to ride, grind and slide on.
Transitional	Transitional style skaters (also known as bowl or vert skating) utilise dedicated skate parks with transitional and bowl elements.
Longboarding	Longboarders utilise public spaces such as wide park paths, streets and footpaths. These skaters do not generally grind or slide on furniture.

<sup>2</sup> Wellington City Council, Play Spaces Policy, 2017, <https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-by-laws/policies/play-spaces-policy>

<sup>3</sup> Sport New Zealand, Play Principles, 2017, <https://sportnz.org.nz/assets/Uploads/attachments/Sport-New-Zealand-Play-Principles-Nov-2017.pdf>

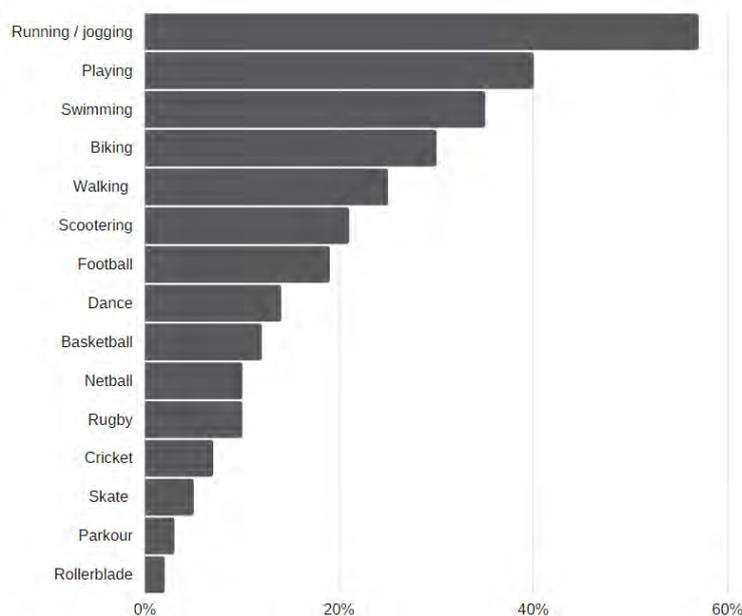
<sup>4</sup> Participate Melbourne, Skate Melbourne Plan, 2017-2027, <https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/skate>

## A Growing Skate Community

Skateboarding is now recognised as a legitimate sport and recreational activity by many governing bodies and was due to make its debut as an Olympic sport (street and park style) at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games.

Skate has also become a popular activity among young people; Council's recent Residents Monitoring Survey found that 16% of children in Wellington households skate or scooter to/from school at least once a week<sup>5</sup>.

In comparison to other sport and recreational activities, participation rates in skate are low. The graph below shows findings from Sport NZ's Active New Zealand Survey, specifically looking at the participate rates of young people aged 5-17 years old<sup>Error! Bookmark not defined.</sup> as can be seen below.



However, skate activity is growing in Wellington, particularly in young people aged 5-17 years old. Participation in both skate and scootering in Wellington City has significantly grown for this age group from 2017 (3%) to 2018 (7%)<sup>Error! Bookmark not defined.</sup>. Scootering has also increased from 2017 (20%) to 2018 (24%). Sport NZ data also found that males were more likely to participate in both skate and scootering than females.

Similar to other sport and recreational activities, skate is promoted and organised by multiple organisations and community groups. Skateboarding New Zealand is responsible for leading the development of skate throughout New Zealand, however organisations and groups such as Wellington Skate Association (WSA)<sup>6</sup> and OnBoard Skate<sup>7</sup> also play an important role in the development of skate in the capital.

WSA are a non-profit organisation dedicated to assisting the Wellington skate community and are focused on improving the City's existing skate facilities as well as creating new ones (DIY skate spaces). OnBoard Skate was founded on a philosophy of "inclusion for all", and

<sup>5</sup> Wellington City Council, Residents Monitoring Survey Report 2019, 2019

<sup>6</sup> Wellington Skate Association, <https://www.facebook.com/wellingtonskateboardingassociation/>

<sup>7</sup> OnBoard Skate, <https://www.onboardskate.org.nz/copy-of-about-1>

offers a range of services including in-school skateboarding and women and girl's only programmes.

These organisations address the needs of a growing number of children, young people and adults who are being excluded from or no longer want to participate in traditional organised sports due to hyper competitive culture, focus on talent identification, and exclusion of those less experienced, but want to participate.

The Wellington skate community are a passionate group of people, with many members dedicating time and resources to create skate spaces for community use. These skate spaces are better known as 'DIY skate parks' and are designed by skaters and for skaters. For example, Owen Street skate park ('The Ghetto') was created by a group of skaters; the group have worked on the park over the last four years and have spent an estimated \$4k on building materials to improve the space. This skate park is now used by multiple groups of people including children and parents/caregivers, adult skaters and by local groups to host events such as Women's Skate Jams.



## Skate Facilities in Wellington

Council is the primary custodian of skate facilities in Wellington City, and has a network of seven dedicated outdoor skate facilities which are relatively evenly distributed across the City and of varying quality and complexity.

The locations of these facilities are shown in the map below.



Kilbirnie Recreation Centre is the only indoor skating space in Wellington City. This space is shared with other users and has limited features and availability for skaters. Kilbirnie Recreation Centre is also the only pay-to-skate facility in the City.

In addition to these built facilities, Wellington also has a number of other skateable spaces around the City that skaters frequently visit. Spaces such as Wellington Waterfront and the National War Memorial at the top of Tory Street and Tarakani Street are popular. Many skaters visit these spaces due to the lack of variety and challenge at Wellington skate parks, and for their wide open spaces as opposed to a crowded skate park.

It is important to note that street skating is increasingly popular among the skate community in Wellington. This is for several reasons: first, street skating is far more accessible than any other type of skating, second, skaters turn to street skating when parks are overcrowded, and third, because street skating is a large part of skate culture – skating obstacles that were not specifically designed for skating is part of the challenge of skating and one of the creative elements that makes it so enjoyable.

Skate facilities play a significant role in community infrastructure. It is important that we understand this role and develop a framework which responds to population growth, the changing trends of users and community needs.

## Methodology

### Target Audience and Desired Outcomes

Council Officers identified five main stakeholder groups who were the target of our community engagement.

These stakeholder groups included:

- skaters (children and adults);
- scooters (children);
- parents/caregivers of skaters or scooters;
- new skaters or scooters; and
- members of the general public.

Within each stakeholder group, we wanted to understand their demographics, behaviours, aspirations and future needs to develop a skate plan that helps guide decisions around the provision, locations and management of skate in Wellington City.

The following table summarises the desired outcomes for each stakeholder group. This helped when determining what method of engagement to use for each group and the design of the survey and questions.

<b>Stakeholder Group</b>	<b>Desired Outcome</b>
Skaters (children)	What do kids love about skating in Wellington and what are their dreams/aspirations for skate in the city?
Skaters (adults)	We want to understand more about our skating demographic and their desired needs and spaces in the city?
Scooters (children)	What do kids love about scootering in Wellington and

	what are their dreams/aspirations for skate or scootering in the city?
Parents/caregivers of skaters or scooters	How can skate be more accessible and safer for children/beginners?
New skaters or scooters	What barriers to participation currently exist?
Members of the general public	How does the general public feel about skate or scootering? How can we better manage, provide for and locate skate activity in Wellington City?

## Community Engagement

To inform the development of the Skate Plan, Council Officers created a series of community engagement opportunities to collect key insights from stakeholders (i.e. skaters, scooters, parents/caregivers, and members of the general public). This provided an opportunity to better understand the skate community, learn more about our skating demographic and their needs and desires for improved skateable facilities in Wellington City. This engagement also provided an opportunity to assess how the general public feels we can better manage, provide for and locate skate activity in Wellington City.

Community engagement took place over the period of 15 January-24 February 2020, and was promoted through a range of Council channels to reach to as many people as possible:

### Completing the online survey

The online survey was distributed via Council's Facebook Page. The survey was also shared with other key stakeholders to promote through their social media networks.

As mentioned, we realised late in the project that the online survey was not uploaded to the 'Engagement and Consultations' webpage on Council's website and was only disturbed through our social media channels, e-newsletter, and external networks.

### Skate park drop-ins

Throughout the community engagement phase, we visited several skate parks across Wellington City to talk to skaters and parents/caregivers.

The following high-level conversation prompts we used were:

- Why do you like to skate?
- What do you enjoy about skating in Wellington City?
- What would make skating in Wellington City more enjoyable?
- What do you want the future of skate to look like in Wellington City?

This method provided some good feedback, especially at some of the more popular skate parks such as Waitangi Park and Island Bay. There was no one skating when we visited some of the smaller suburban parks, this could have been due to our timing, as some schools were starting back after summer holidays.

The feedback from these drop-ins included:

- more pump tracks and bowls;
- indoor/sheltered skate parks;

- toilet facilities; and
- signage for skate etiquette.

We were also able to collect site specific feedback:

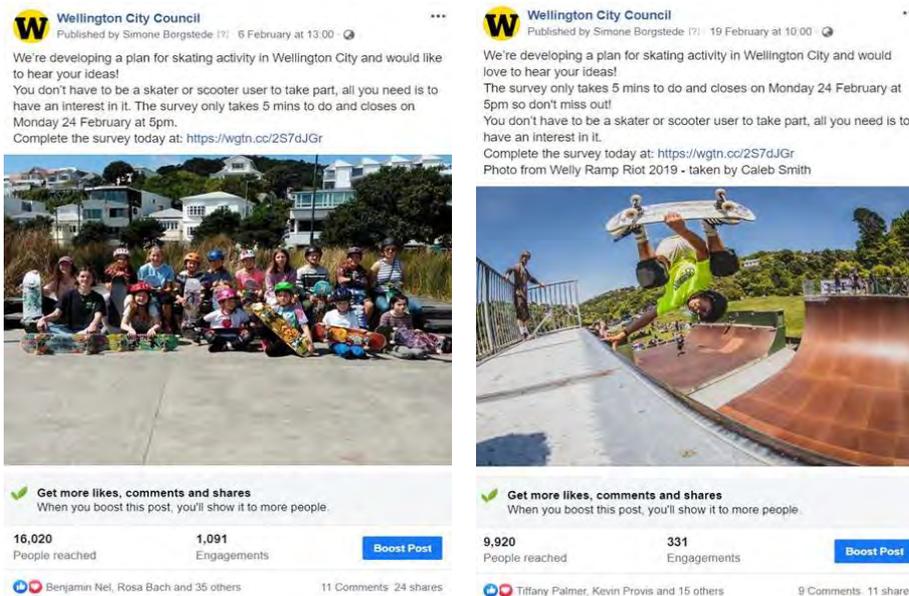
1. Waitangi Park
  - needs age-appropriate equipment
2. Island Bay
  - danger having to cross a busy road to get to toilet facilities
  - difficult parking with sport at Wakefield Park

### Social media engagement

Social media was an effective way to reach the skate community. We used the Council Facebook Page to share the online survey.

The survey was also shared with other key stakeholders to promote through their social media networks such as Kilbirine Recreation Centre and skate groups including OnBoard Skate, Micro Scooters, Girls Skate Wellington and more.

Facebook was the most common method for receiving feedback (linked to the online survey). There were two Facebook Posts on Council's Page; together they had 233 reactions, 20 comments, 35 shares and 211 link clicks.



### Council holiday programme drop-ins

During the school holidays we visited two Council holiday programmes and talked to children, aged 5-12 years old, about skate and scooting.

ASB Programme (n=80) and Tawa programme (n=12).

These drop-ins involved our Council Officers engaging in conversation with children, drawing on butcher's paper and completing postcards.

The feedback we got from these drop-ins included:

- more skate parks;
- more age appropriate equipment and areas; and
- moveable elements at skate parks to help keep spaces fun.



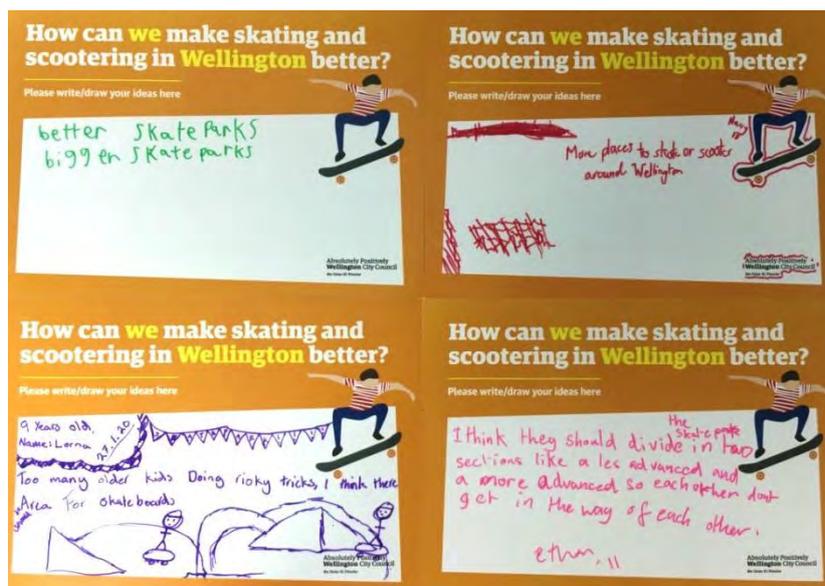
### Postcards

We designed A5 postcards as a way to easily engage and get feedback from children. The postcards asked 'How can we make skating and scooting in Wellington better?' Children could either write or draw their answers down.

We used postcards for some of the children at the holiday programmes, at specific Council facilities such as Kilbirnie Recreation Centre, and also reached out to all schools that have participated in Council's 'Scooter Skills Programme'.

The feedback we got from these postcards included:

- safe spaces to learn and skate;
- more skate parks;
- more skate ramps and bowls;
- more scooter parks (with scooter lanes); and
- separate areas for young children and adults.



## Interviews

We conducted five in-depth interviews to better understand key themes that emerged through the online survey.

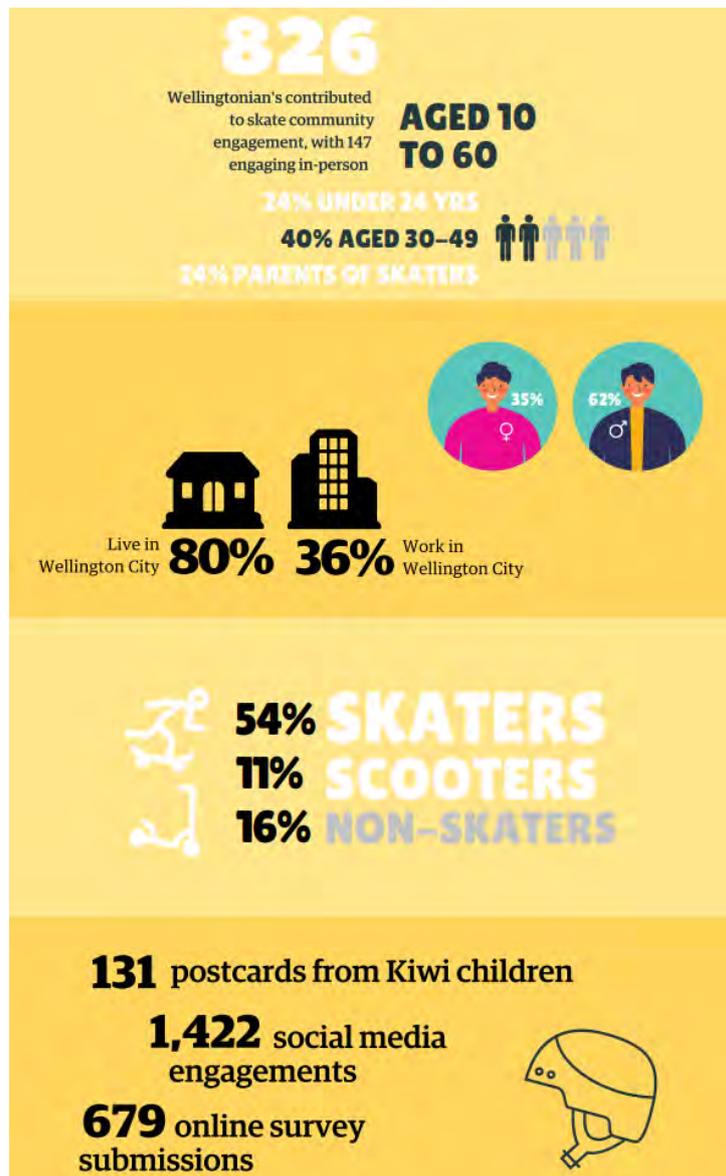
Interviewees will remain anonymous for privacy reasons but included:

- One downhill skater (female), student at Victoria University of Wellington;
- One OnBoard Skate instructor (female), street and park skater, student at Victoria University of Wellington;
- Two street and park skaters, contributors to Owen Street DIY skate park;
- One scooter instructor, rollerblader, staff member at Kilbirine Recreation Centre; and
- One founder of OnBoard Skate, researcher.

[Note: More detailed data from this investigation can be found in the Appendices.]

## Participant Profiles

In total, 679 people completed the online survey. In addition, 147 people engaged through other methods (listed previously) as well as 1,422 social media engagements.



## Engagement Constraints and Considerations

There are a number of constraints to consider when reviewing the findings.

We realised late in the project that the online survey was not uploaded to the 'Engagement and Consultations' webpage on Council's website and was only distributed through our social media channels, e-newsletter, and external networks. This may have resulted in a limited number of responses from members of the general public.

There was a higher response rate from skaters in comparison to other skate activity such as scooters, BMX/mountain bikes and members of the general public.

In addition, the online survey went live at the same time as Council's 'E-Scooter Scheme Survey'. While our communication clearly stated that our online survey was about non-motorised skate activity, this may have caused confusion for some respondents as there were several negative comments about e-scooters in our online survey; however these were removed from the findings as they were deemed irrelevant.

## Key Findings

Three key themes emerged from the community engagement<sup>8</sup>:

### 1. Improve Accessibility to and Design of Skateable Facilities

We received extensive feedback in relation to the availability of suitable skate parks and areas around Wellington City, specifically the accessibility to local skate parks and the number of facilities available for beginners and young users. We also heard a considerable amount of feedback on how Council should approach the design and redevelopment of new skate facilities.

#### Review provision of skate parks and locations compared to the ability of users

- The provision of skateable facilities is limited around Wellington City.
  - Skaters want skate facilities in centrally accessible areas as well as small to medium facilities in Wellington Suburbs.
  - The provision of skateable facilities is limited due to existing facilities being run down or too small.

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<sup>8</sup> Other reports (see Appendices) and data analysis have not been considered in this report. These themes only showcase the opinions and feelings of the community we engaged with.

- The provision of skate facilities has not matched the increase in popularity of skate, especially notable in young people.
- During planning for facility upgrades, we need to ensure accessibility for all is considered, such as proximity to public transport and safety of the area.
- Current facilities do not provide enough variety, progression and skaters lose interest fast and will seek out other spots that are more attractive and not designed for skaters (e.g. open space skate areas and a variety of styles and obstacles).

Consider more skate areas that allow for progression of abilities

- Feedback suggests that interest in skate is growing and the need for more beginner level, local skate facilities in Wellington Suburbs is also growing. This also highlights the need for more scooter-friendly facilities.
- Kids, young people and beginners all have unique needs and skate facilities need to reflect this. Families with children learning to skate or scooter need to be considered at existing and new facilities, as well as the style of obstacles and access for children and beginners. It is also important to consider skate facilities that have clear progression pathways for young people and for long term progression of the sport.
- Young people feel connection with place and skate is regarded as a healthy option for young people to recreate. Facilities need to consider the needs of young people, including access by public transport, lighting, and visibility for safety.
- Female participation and interest in skate has increased significantly, which calls for safe and inclusive environments that are ‘female-friendly’ in a typically male dominant activity.
- Feedback said that there needed to be better provision of good training facilities and support for young talent to become pro/semi-pro skaters

Better design of skate parks

- The skate community want to be involved and consulted with on the design of new parks
- Skaters asked to consider developing a skate audit tool using these elements:
  - Do the surfaces meet user needs? Is it smooth?
  - Is there good flow between obstacles or areas?

- Does Wellington City cater to a wide range of skills and abilities (e.g. parents/caregivers, pro/semi-pro, pre-schoolers, scooters)?
- Do skate areas have amenities which cater for these users?
- Does the space allow for flat and open space skating?
- Is the space safe and does it encourage positive socialising?
- Does the skate park have ample lighting for year-round skating and safety?

#### DIY skate parks

- This type of skate park is popular in Wellington and is the idea of ‘for locals, by locals.’ These spaces are designed, built and maintained by skaters and are funded by skaters or fundraisers which are organised by the skate community.
- Skaters believe that being involved in the design and build for a local skate park is an effective way to volunteer and give back to the local community.
- Wellington City currently has two DIY skate spaces, Treetops and Owen Street. These spaces are more accessible and accepting of skaters, however lack support from Council.

#### Indoor or sheltered skate facilities

- The idea of indoor or sheltered skate facilities was a theme that emerged across all methods of community engagement, and resonates as a request for support to develop an indoor skate facility in Wellington City.
- Wellington weather can be harsh on skaters, who recreate outdoors as this is where the skating areas are.
- Skaters are seeking sheltered skate parks such as a satellite roof, shade sail or a space under an overpass bridge. Feedback also highlighted the need for better lighting, not only as a safety precaution but for night time use.
- A free or user-pays indoor skate venue which is accessible, diverse and catering for a range of abilities and needs was also highlighted.

#### Upgrade and maintain existing skate parks

- We have heard that Council facilities have not been maintained as well as what they could have been. The feedback suggests that most skate facilities in Wellington City are in poor condition, and some unsafe to skate.

- Skating styles and trends have evolved over the last 10 years, however the City has not seen any significant investment in these dedicated spaces for the last 10 years, it is therefore possible that skate parks are outdated and no longer cater to the needs of current and future users.



*OnBoard Skate*

## **2. Increase the Public Space Permission for Skaters**

Feedback from community engagement strongly aligned with Sport NZ's Play Principle of 'permission to play'. Skaters of all levels and disciplines want to be able to skate freely in open spaces without feeling rebellious.

It is important to the skate community to improve community perceptions of skaters and build acceptance of the activity as a sound sport and recreation activity, rooted in positive well-being outcomes.

### More 'skate and scoot-friendly' public areas

- We need to consider skaters during urban design processes. For example, consider using less skate stoppers and instead use durable metal edging, create dedicated skate pathways and railings, with skate-friendly signage.
- Street skating is one of the most popular styles of skating, however this needs further investigation.

- We need to consider our engagement with the skate community to co-design new skate-appropriate urban areas.
- Skate areas can be better shared, with places to sit, socialise and spectate, which encourages skating in public spaces.
- Spaces such as the National War Memorial, the bottom of Cuba Street and outside local businesses are popular spaces for skaters; however these spaces are discouraged and/or prohibited. When conflict does arise, it is often with security guards and local residents or business owners.

#### Increase public acceptance and awareness

- Overall, this engagement highlighted that the Wellington skate community simply want to skate more and be accepted by the general public.
- There is a history of negative stigma around skateboarding, traditionally skating has been perceived as a rebel sport, attracting troublesome young people and problematic crowds. It is clear from this engagement that skaters want to change the public's perception of and attitudes towards *skaters*.
- Feedback from community engagement suggests that Council support positive change to increase public acceptance and awareness of skating:
  1. Advocate for respect and tolerance of skate activity in Wellington City through public campaigns and staff training (i.e. security guards, local hosts and Council officials)
  2. Help reduce the stigma of skating by encouraging skate to be social
  3. Raise public awareness of the benefits of skate and celebrate/recognise the success of skating in both Wellington and New Zealand
  4. Consider a safety awareness campaign for those using footpaths

#### Sharing public space, conflict of users and pedestrian safety

- There are themes in the feedback which suggest that the skate community are safety conscious and are aware of the needs of other users, pedestrians, cyclist and more.
- Feedback reflects an understanding that skaters can cause intimidation and often make members of the general public feel unsafe.

- In seeking safe havens to recreate, skaters often get bored and frustrated by the lack of quality skate spaces and overcrowding that they will often find other places around Wellington City to skate, that are not designed for them (e.g. footpaths, carparks and other public areas). As a result, conflict between pedestrians and skaters is often related to damage of urban infrastructure and sometimes noise, abuse or intimidation.
- Feedback from community engagement suggests ways to improve the integration between skaters and pedestrians:
  1. More communication from Council about acceptable/unacceptable places to skate
  2. Produce educational information such as guidelines or a safety campaign to promote how to share public space with others (i.e. footpaths and other public areas)



*Council's 'Scooter Skills Programme'*

### 3. Improve Access to Support and Funding for Skate Communities

Members of the skate community feel underrepresented and underfunded by Council, which has discouraged some and encouraged others to take their own action.

The skate community have had to make do with what they have and more towards DIY skating developments.

#### More attention and support for skate to nurture and grow skate

- With skateboarding now an Olympic sport, the up and coming local talent want the infrastructure to support their growth and training.
- There is a desire for more attention and support for skate to nurture the development and growth of skating trends for all ages and stages. Skate in Wellington has been significantly underinvested compared to other sports and recreation activities and other regions and cities of similar sizes<sup>9</sup>.
- The skate community see investment as not only funding towards infrastructure development and more facilities, but as attention to the development of skating, advocating through policy and availability of funding and support for locally-led projects.
- It is worth noting however that the skate community were appreciative of Council allowing them to be engaged in this project, and how hopeful they are that we will listen and respond to their needs.
- The skate community are driven to take action; however there are several barriers to this (this was not an objective of this project). Feedback from community engagement suggests that skaters would like more Council support in order to:
  - drive their own local projects;
  - drive campaigns about play and skating;
  - support capability development for skate groups (i.e. WSA, Girls Skate Wellington and OnBoard Skate);
  - make funding available for skate development; and
  - run community events and competitions.

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<sup>9</sup> Council has invested a total \$169.5k in skate over the last 10 years.

### Continue to engage and consult with skaters

- It is important to continue engaging with the skate community in order to truly understand the current demographic, needs and aspirations to inform Council planning. Skate facilities have historically been poorly designed by people that do not skate.
- Skaters are very passionate people and want to be involved in the process of design and build and want to enable the community to have a voice and make their own decisions.
- Skaters want to have a say on planning priorities for skate in the Wellington City. Council should therefore consider keeping communication channels open so that skaters can input on future projects.

### **Next Steps**

The aim now is to work with the skate community to develop a skate action plan for the City that covers the key themes identified in this document. If you have any feedback please contact: [alex.trenouth@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:alex.trenouth@wcc.govt.nz).

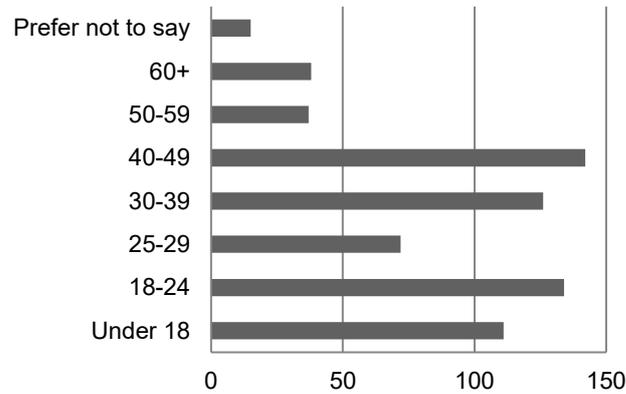
# Appendices

## Summary of Survey Responses

Online survey responses (n=679)

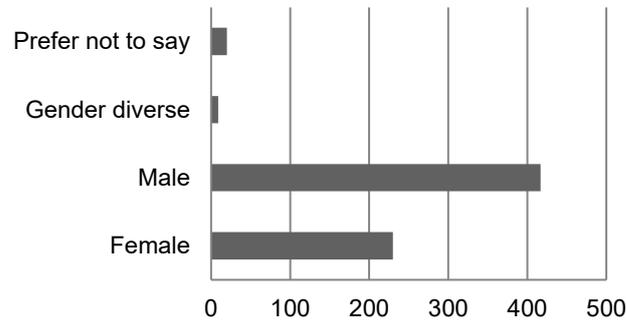
### Demographics

#### Age



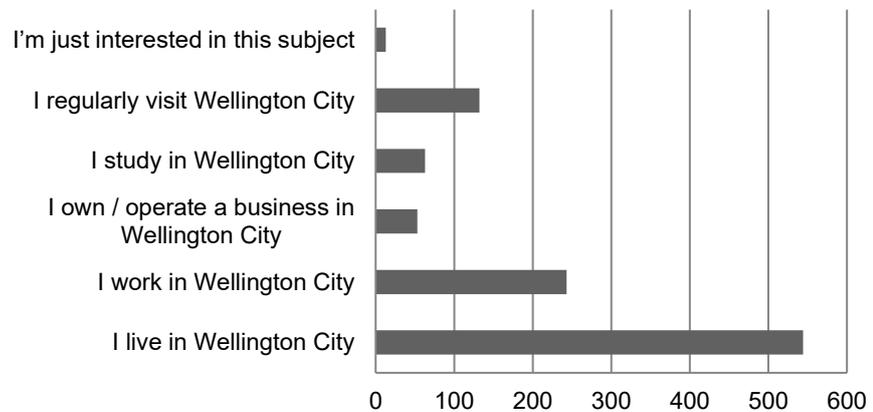
37% were from young people aged under 24 years old. 40% were from people aged 30 to 49 years old (including parents/caregivers responding on behalf of children that skate or scooter).

#### Gender



62% were male, 35% female and 4% undisclosed.

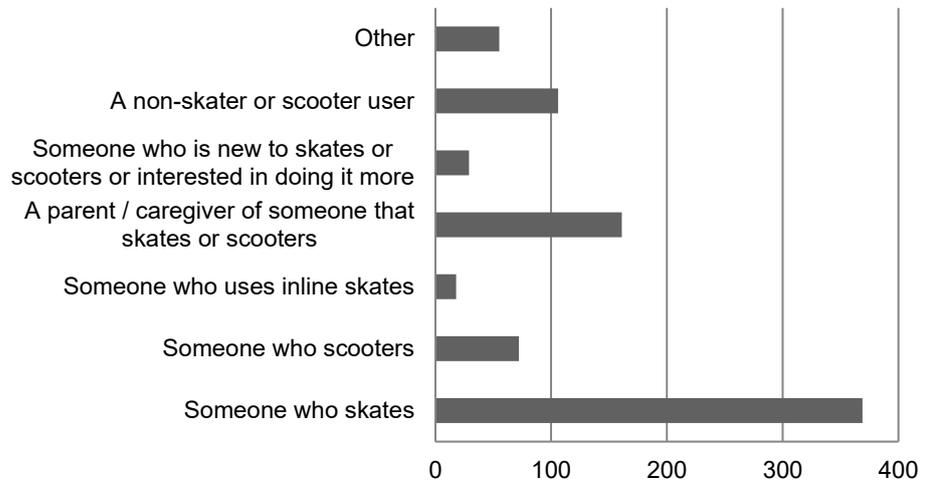
#### Connection to Wellington City



80% live in Wellington City, while 36% work in Wellington City.

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**Survey respondent type**

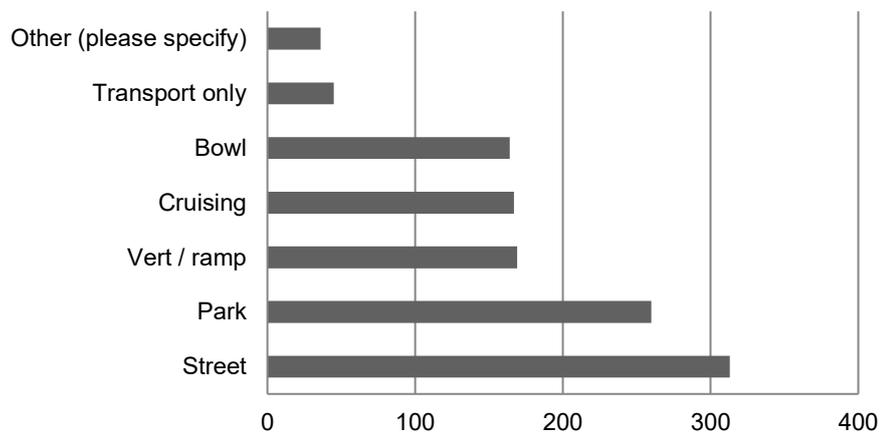


54% were from skaters, 24% from parents/caregivers of skaters or scooters, 16% from non-skaters or scooters, and 11% from scooters.

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**Skate specific questions**

**Key styles participated in**

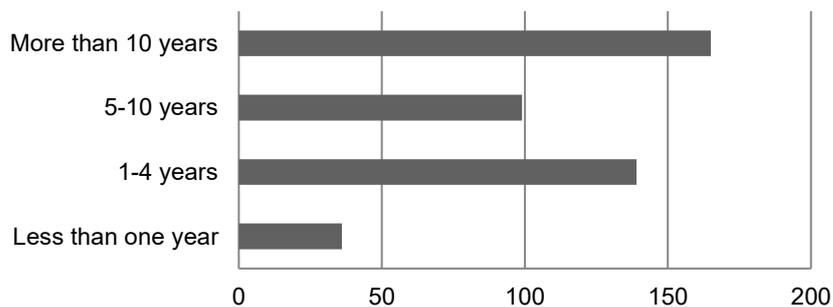


Skaters often participate in multiple styles of skate.

The most popular style is street skating (71%) which generally takes place in public places, followed by park skating (59%) and transitional skating on a bowl or ramp (38%) which takes place at designated skate park facilities.

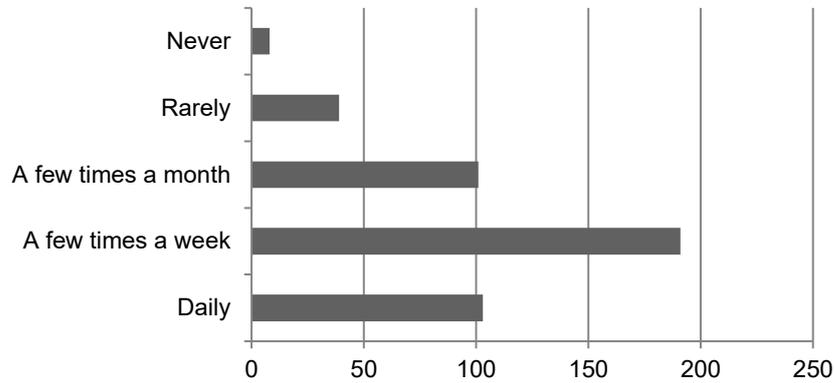
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**Skating experience**



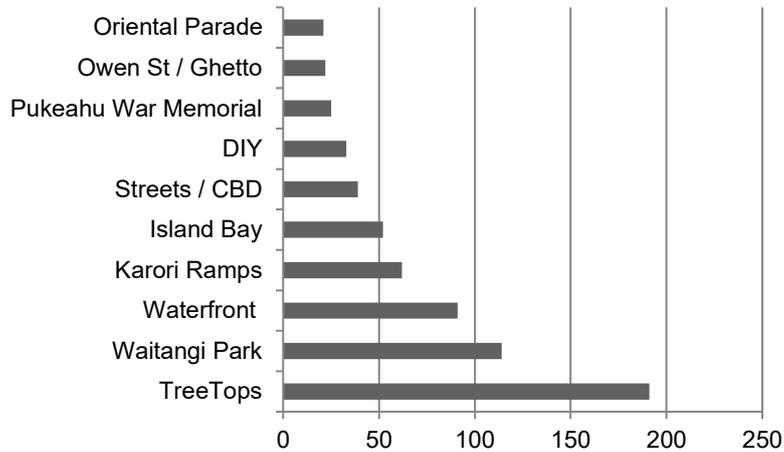
38% have been skating for more than 10 years.

### Frequency of skating



66% skate few times a week or daily.

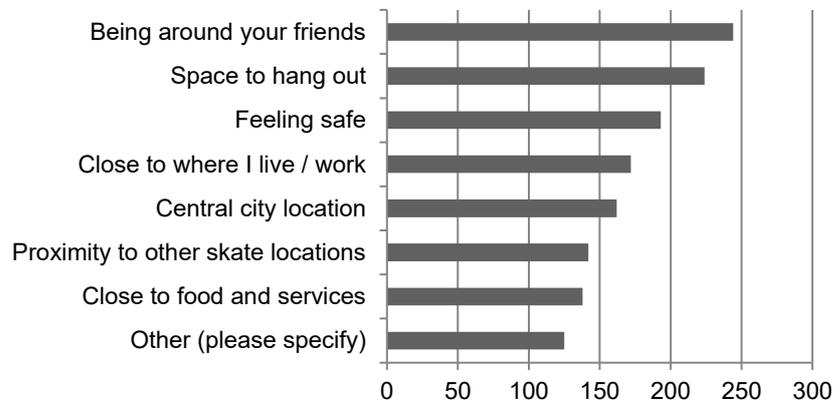
### Top places to skate



Treetops is a DIY street park in Newtown which was built by the skate community.

Skate spots such as Treetops and other DIY skate parks have been designed and built for skaters, by skaters.

### Important characteristics of a skate space



Skaters enjoy being social and having a space to hang out with friends.

*"I enjoy skating at the local skate parks, especially Waitangi Park because it is close to the City and it always has lots of different people around. It's central to*

*the City and close to everything.”*

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**What do you enjoy about skating in Wellington City**

- The top five things skaters enjoy most:
1. The people and the skate community
  2. Hanging with friends and meeting new people
  3. Fun and happiness
  4. Getting around Wellington City
  5. Getting outdoors

*“Skating around the City is beautiful, natural spots, and shared areas, the architecture, and the rolling hills.”*

*“The vibe of the City, the downhills, the waterfront. Wellington City is compact, so it’s easy to commute from spot to spot on a skateboard.”*

*“The Wellington skateboard community is tightknit group and skate spots are meeting points.”*

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**What’s one thing Council could do to improve skate in Wellington City**

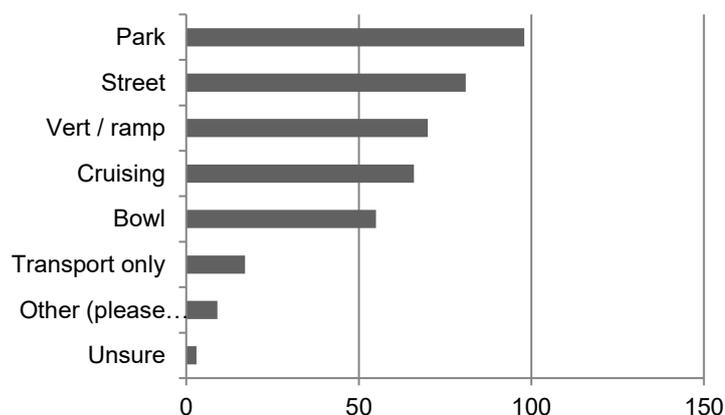
- The strongest key themes:
1. Better provision of skate parks
  2. More skate friendly public spaces and skateable spots across Wellington City
  3. Better design of skate parks
  4. More funding and support for skate
  5. Indoor/sheltered skate spaces
  6. Upgrade and maintain existing facilities
  7. More acceptance and awareness of skaters
  8. Dedicated spaces for younger children to learn in a safe environment
  9. Skate parks that are more accessible for girls and young women
  10. Continue to engage and communicate with the skate community

*“Skateboarding in Wellington City is great but can be tough due to spread out facilities, weather conditions (staying wet for a long period after rain) and parks that do not cater to all abilities.”*

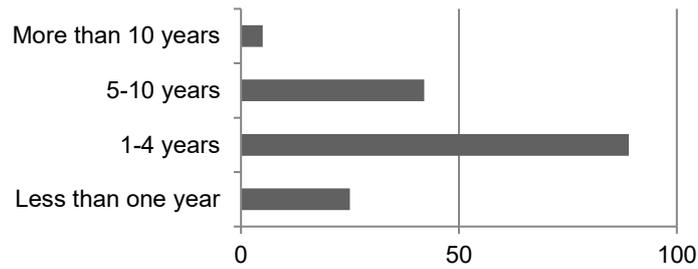
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Parents/caregivers

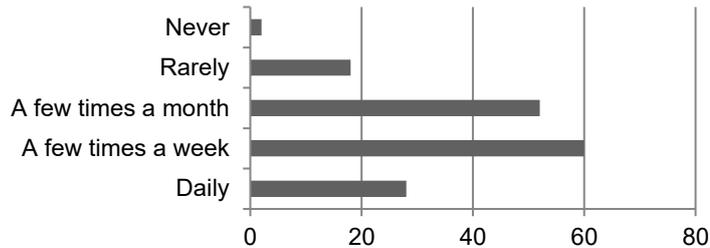
**Childs favourite styles**



**Childs skate experience**



**Childs frequency of skating**



**Top places your child likes to skate**

1. Waitangi Park
2. Waterfront
3. Island Bay
4. Karori Ramps
5. Treetops

**Important characteristics for your child in a skate space**



For parents, having a safe environment for their child to skate is the most important factor in a skate space.

**What does your child enjoy most about skating**

1. Doing tricks and learning new skills
2. Hanging with friends and family
3. Easy way to get around
4. Age-appropriate facilities that are safe
5. Being active

*“My kids (age 8 and 12) like to skate and scooter in places where the surface is smooth so they can practice doing tricks.”*

*“Scootering is fun and also a very convenient way to get around for short trips.”*

**What's one thing we could**

- The strongest key themes:
1. Better provision of skate parks

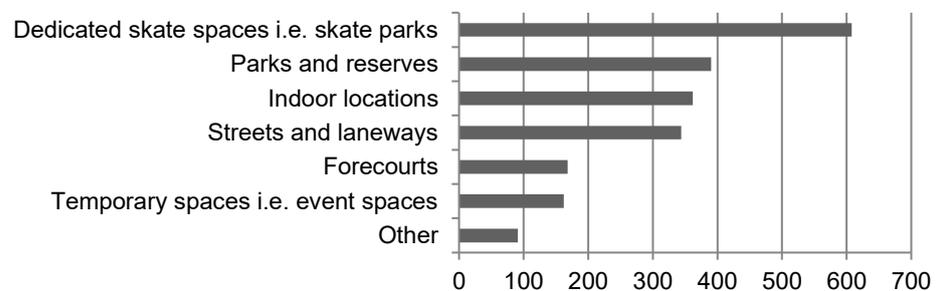
**do to improve skate for your child in Wellington City**

2. Spaces that are accessible and age/skill-appropriate
3. Dedicated spaces for younger kids to learn safely
4. Upgrade and maintain current facilities
5. More wider, smoother paths and open areas
6. More sealed pump tracks
7. Sheltered facilities for all year around skating
8. Supporting amenities at skate parks (i.e. seating, shade and toilets)
9. Safety campaign to raise awareness about skaters/scooters on footpaths
10. Provide skate lessons and workshops to get more kids into skate or scooter

*“Provide skaters and scooters dedicated spaces that are central, not isolated, and are kept well maintained by Council so they are safe and are spaces that encourage people into green spaces to be outside, exercise and get creative.”*

All respondents (including non-skaters)

**Types of public spaces most suitable for skate activity**



**Spaces and facilities that best support the skate community**

1. Designated skate parks with a mixture of transitional, street and park obstacles (70%)
2. Sheltered spaces for year round skating (63%)
3. Small to medium skate spots supported by the Council (49%)
4. Transitional skate parks (i.e. bowls and ramps) (46%)
5. Indoor facilities (39%)
6. Street skate zones or trails (38%)
7. Street plazas (36%)
8. Multi-purpose use facilities that cater for other recreation opportunities (i.e. being near a bike park, playground or dog exercise area) (31%)
9. Pump tracks (20%)
10. Downhill or slalom courses (11%)

**One thing Council can do to improve skate in Wellington City**

The strongest themes:

1. Pedestrian safety/sharing footpaths
2. Communication around use of space
3. Dedicated spaces for skate
4. Invest in some educational information about how to share space with others (i.e. pedestrian, other skating users and cars) in a safer way

*“Keep skateboarding, skating and scootering away from spaces used by the general public. Pedestrians, particularly people who are elderly or have a disability have enough to contend with already such as uneven pavements, electric scooters, bikes on pavements, poor driving of vehicles. It should be relatively easy to provide alternative venues for the skating community.”*

**Any further comments**

- *“This is a great initiative, and I am really impressed Council is taking the effort to consider our activity within the community.”*

- *“Great to see Council asking these questions and doing something about our skateboard culture to keep it alive and in good hands.”*
  - *“Excited that you're looking at this - for me and my kids.”*
  - *“I'd just like to say that I'm proud that Council is taking time to consider the skating culture and the people who enjoy it. Often I feel like a bit of an outcast so it's nice to be considered and to have an equal voice in Wellington.”*
  - *“So happy that Council are finally considering the demand for skate facilities. So much more needs to be done to accommodate our young people.”*
  - *“Make Wellington skate again!”*
  - *“Do something with the feedback please.”*
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