

Oral submission number: 6

Submission Number: 374

Submitter: Wellington Skateboarding Association and Skateboarding NZ

Kia ora,

As representatives of Te Whanganui-a-Tara's skateboarding community, want to ensure skateboarding is a key part of Te Whai Oranga, your Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

We are concerned that if this does not occur, then Wellington will continue to be left behind in relation to the rest of the country, not to mention the world, when it comes to progressive approaches to transport, dedicated and public spaces.

We appreciate the strategy is high level, and doesn't delve into specifics but we feel skateboarding could and should be elevated in the following areas:

Page 23: We as a community have worked incredibly hard to bring the Play Spaces Policy action to life regarding integrating skateable design into the city. So far, there has been limited buy in and it has not been elevated to right level to get any traction. We see this the 'Integrated' part of the strategy as a key opportunity to highlight what integration looks like in practicality with examples of play, skateboarding and parkour being explicitly showcased within the copy. We also recommend an image of street skating in Wellington to be used on this page - we are happy to provide one.

Page 34: You say 'Embed play in all our spaces and places' - we understand skate is understood by some as a subcategory of play but we ask that this is made more explicit here. We want skateboarding to be welcomed and planned into the city - to encourage skaters and young people in general to interact with and take ownership over public spaces.

Page 57: P4 This action relates to developing an ocean recreation and facilities plan - we ask there is an additional action regarding the development of a long term skate strategy for Wellington City. With skate currently sitting outside of sports and playgrounds it has traditionally, and continues to, fall between the cracks. We ask that this long plan covers:

- A long term vision for skateboarding
- Maintenance and upgrade schedules of all skateparks (they currently sit outside the playground schedule of works and are thus unfunded)
- All skateparks being lit so they are safe and functional for nighttime use
- Provide a purpose built indoor facility
- For skate to be actively integrated into the design of the city, providing pathways through the city, individual skate obstacles and a move away from anti-skate architecture/signage.

Page 58: Action P8:

- We ask that this action includes revisiting the Play Spaces Policy with a specific call to develop a long term plan for skate as mentioned above.

Skateboarding is one of the fastest growing activities in the world and a new Olympic sport. Furthermore, it is the perfect example of a way to actively engage with, and cater to, our much underserved younger community (as well as their parents!).

We are proud to be Wellingtonians, and have put a lot of effort and passion into helping change our city for the better. We have appreciated the support we have been given from some members of the Council, and we know it can lead to much, much more.

Nga mihi,
Max Olijnyk
President, Wellington

Dave Read Editor,
Manual Magazine and Co-Chair of Skateboarding New Zealand Inc.