

BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL

SEPARATE ATTACHMENT

Plateau Drive Wollongbar – Skatepark and
Masterplan

(Email and Letter Submissions)

Ordinary meeting 25 February 2016

Sent: Monday, 20 July 2015 3:18 PM

To: councillors@ballina.nsw.gov.au

Subject: Proposed Skateboard Park Masterplan

Dear Councillors,

I ask for you to consider my views on the proposed Skateboard park for the Alstonville/Wollongbar precinct before it is put to any vote at your Thursday 23/7/15 meeting.

May I say right from the start that I am a supporter of people skateboarding, and the use of allocated areas to focus and improve on their abilities. I have been a teacher for over thirty years, a skateboarder since the age of 12, a sponsored skateboarder in my teens and a strong advocate for good community facilities. I want teenagers to be able to access these facilities locally.

I have just been made aware of the proposed 'Master Plan' and firstly would like to ask when was the wider community alerted to this and asked for their contributions? As a member of the local high school community and a resident of Wollongbar it has not been obvious in the wider public forum. I don't do facebook nor should it be where I find these things out.

My concern is not with having a skateboard facility, I believe it would be fantastic for the local teens and others, it is where it is to be located. When thinking of a skateboard park, and other sites that work locally, exposure and openness are important, and relative distance from residential areas are very important. The proposed site at the old drive-in theatre is not appropriate for the last reason. The Council has sold its land in Tectona Place to future residents who are now building substantial dwellings, with no notification of a plan for a skateboard park, in some cases less than 50 metres away. Why should they be exposed to the lights, noise, extra cars which were not part of their dream or in any of their notifications or covenants before they purchased.

Also Council plans show a Child care centre to be located adjacent to this site. I don't believe these two compliment each other. The other issue is that no off-street parking has been allocated and the safety of users could be compromised because of the parking in the street and the proximity on the junction at the roundabout.

Surely a couple of better options would have been the old Basketball court site in the Industrial Estate or even part of the Tennis Courts site in the Industrial Estate. Both are council owned with existing roads, paths lighting and roads infrastructure, without a residential background to deal with. They are also located centrally between the two suburbs giving greater access for teenagers and others.

I ask that you give due consideration to the residents who would be directly affected 24/7 and place any Skateboard park facility in a more appropriate place.

I look forward to your replies.

Thank you,

Sent:
Subject:

Wednesday, 22 July 2015 3:03 PM
Wollongbar Skate Park

Dear Councillors,

I am aware that the draft Master plan for the Wollongbar Skate Park will be up for consideration at the next meeting on 23 July.

I ask that you endorse this proposal and support the recommendations from the local skate park group WASP to increase the area of the skate park.

The proposed skate park site is located near many young families who need an open space for recreational purposes that suit both passive and active options. Children and young people in Alstonville and Wollongbar need a safe place to skate. They are using streets and car parks, compromising their safety and that of motorists.

After waiting for 15 years and having over 30 sites knocked back this community is more than ready for a skate park.

Will you listen to these families and commit to building a skate park?

Yours sincerely,

Sent:
Subject:

Wednesday, 22 July 2015 8:43 PM
Wollongbar Alstonville Skate Park

Dear Councillors

I am aware that the draft master plan will be considered at the next meeting on 23 July. I ask you to endorse this master plan with the recommendations put forward by the Wollongbar Alstonville Skate Park group. I would like to see a skatepark that is 1000 square metres so that different ages and abilities can enjoy this facility. Our community has wanted this for over 15 years. Will you endorse this plan?

Cheers,

To Whom It May Concern,

We have been residents and ratepayers of Wollongbar for 26 years. We read in the Advocate about the meeting to discuss the skate park proposed for the corner of Rifle Range Road and Lillian Way. Unfortunately, we only read the paper after the meeting was held. We wish the article had appeared a week ago so we could have emailed **before** the meeting.

WE FULLY SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A SKATE PARK ON THIS SITE. We raised our 2 daughters in Wollongbar and lamented the lack of recreational facilities for young people to enjoy. Some years ago a large amount of money was wasted on an entirely inappropriate multi purpose court in the industrial area. No parents of our acquaintance would allow their children to use the court, as it was located away from the residential area, on the opposite side of the highway. We paid for this waste with our rates and were rather angry that our children were not considered important enough to play along with their peers in a vibrant, safe, location in the centre of the community.

The skate park near Missingham Bridge is TERRIFIC...in a beautiful spot full of life on the weekends and after school. It could benefit from a shade sail or two, but is a marvellous asset to the Ballina landscape.

The park at Lennox is a major let down. Jammed in behind the shopping centre: it would have been OH SO MUCH BETTER on the beach front. Activity, spectacle and enjoyment for participants and spectators alike. Not to mention a draw card to entice more visitors to Lennox.

I am a teacher at Wollongbar Public School and know what terrific children we have in our village. Let us cater for them. Why are skate parks viewed with such negativity? One located openly and well landscaped, and with security lighting at night can only enhance our village. There is not much for local teens to do around here and public transport linking them to major centres that offer more facilities is somewhat lacking. Children, teens and young adults deserve this facility.

It is interesting that _____ is voicing her opinion (again) about this issue. Her house is located close to the proposed site, so we suspect some bias. In our 50s we love to see our streets busy with children playing and enjoying life.

Once again, we regret that this email is following the meeting and hope that our opinion will be considered.

Yours sincerely,

Sent:
Subject:

Sunday, 16 August 2013 6:24 PM
SKATE PARK! IMPORTANT!

Hi, my name is _____, and I am 24.

The skatepark for Alstonville/Wollongbar is something that the people of these towns absolutely need. I see the youth of these areas, where a rich school district exists, doing little to create and maintain their health in an age where technology is consuming the majority of their attention.

Some play team sports, which is fine (I myself played soccer at the Alstonville soccer club for 15 years or so) - but team sports have a schedule. 'Training is from 5-6, game kicks off at 9' etc. then they go home. One of many beautiful things about skateboarding (which I have loved for around 12 years) is that you don't need a team of people to be there for you to fully partake in it. You can do it whenever you want to. This great circumstance is furthered by the more important fact that skateboarding keeps you hungry for progression and development. It starts small, learning to stand on the board, maybe roll a few feet - and that's exciting to learn. And then you begin to try and lift your wheels up and manual/wheelie, or tic-tac to generate speed without pushing, or even ollie off the ground. These are very basic fundamentals of skateboarding that don't come close to scratching the surface of it, but all of these bring a great sense of satisfaction and achievement, through having overcome a once-seemingly-impassable task, and further fuel your desire to achieve something new. I've never seen it work any other way, with kids at the skateparks in Ballina and Goonellabah (amongst other parks I have frequented). As soon as they learn one thing, there's this desire in their eyes to achieve more - and it carries on into other walks of life. I have loved music all my life but decided to start teaching myself (another skateboarding-instilled virtue, self-teaching and problem-solving) instruments and writing music in the last 5 years - the desire of achievement that skateboarding has instilled in me, i sincerely believe has led me to a big milestone I have recently achieved - releasing my first single ever (recorded and performed totally self-sufficiently) via a record label in Sydney that found and contacted me some months ago and are sending it to triple J's doors (and many more radio stations) in the coming weeks. None of this would have happened for me without skateboarding. I really believe that.

Skateboarding teaches you the value of persistence at pursuits in life and to get up when you fall down (or, when things don't work). An absolutely HUGE life lesson I am greatly thankful to skateboarding for having learnt. Here's Jerry Seinfeld on that: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rub-lW-9MXw>

Skateboarding is great exercise and a great reason to get outdoors - but has a value that makes it shine above going for a jog. There's an artistic merit to it (responsible for many high scale skate films since its birth - here's a short insight of it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-V8de2IUHgE>) but more importantly, it's pure fun - no competitive nature is necessary (but, with many annual skate comps around this area, is accessible if that's what drives you - in fact, the Number 1 Under 18's Bowl rider in Australia is a good friend of mine who lives in Ballina) for you to want to skate with every spare moment. I have only ever skated in one competition in my 12 years of skateboarding - and I have worn a smile for almost literally every second I have spent on board. I have met some great human beings, made some great friends and seen some great places through skateboarding - as well as found work in it. Here is a trailer from a new skate film which premiered in the last few days that truly captures the value of the international language of skateboarding: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVus4Ua1EFQ>

Conclusion: I cannot strain enough the great values skateboarding has to offer each and every child/person. I feel this is something that Alstonville/Wollongbar youth NEEDS. I'm very familiar with the great scale of the northern NSW skateboarding scene and I can say that if you haven't had a good deal of

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emails on this subject, it is WITHOUT QUESTION - that they are out there skateboarding instead. Because they want to feel happy, healthy, share the endless fun with their friends, make new friends, develop who they are as skateboarders and most importantly as people - and just a myriad of other reasons. Please go ahead with this! And please feel free to contact me regarding any of this, if you have any questions, or considerations for park design (Very important!). A well designed (not necessarily costly) park is critical to the incredible gift you can give to the youth and to the entire region via SKATEBOARDING!
Thankyou for your time!

Sent: Friday, 28 August 2015 2:16 PM

To: councillors@ballina.nsw.gov.au

Subject: Skate park masterplan Wollongbar

Dear Councillors,

I ask for you to consider my views again on the proposed Master Plan/Skateboard park for the Alstonville/Wollongbar precinct before it is put to any further vote. May I say right from the start that I am a supporter of people skateboarding, and the use of allocated areas to focus and improve on their abilities. I believe that for the great majority of children it is a great form of exercise in the outdoors. I have been a teacher for over thirty years, a skateboarder since the age of 12, a sponsored skateboarder in my teens

(the good old seventies) and a strong advocate for good community facilities. I want teenagers to be able to access these facilities locally.

I have just been made further aware of the proposed 'Master Plan' and firstly would like to ask when was the wider community alerted to this (especially the new local residents) and asked for their contributions prior to the recent vote? As a member of the local high school community and a resident of Wollongbar it has not been obvious in the wider public forum. I don't do facebook nor should it be where I find these things out.

My concern is not with having a skateboard facility, I believe it would be fantastic for the local teens and others, it is where it is to be located. When thinking of a skateboard park, and other sites that work locally, exposure and openness are important, and relative distance from residential areas are very important. Recent internet searches into sites and blogs confirm that parks need to be at least 100 metres away from residences to avoid aggravation from noise and disturbance.

The proposed site at the old drive-in theatre is not appropriate for the last reason. The Council has sold its land in Tectona Place to future residents who are now building substantial dwellings, with no notification of a plan for a skateboard park in their purchase, in some cases less than 50 metres away. Why should they be exposed to the lights, noise, extra cars which were not part of their dream or in any of their notifications or covenants before they purchased. Why also should they be in the vicinity of possible graffiti attacks (especially on the new wall adjacent to the park) and the litter that will occur regardless if you place bins at the site. Will council be allocating workers to visit the site on a weekly basis, as they do with the Missingingham site, to remove graffiti and rubbish after the weekend?

I have spoken to future residents in Tectona Place and they have said that they would have reconsidered their purchase of their building sites had they known of the proposed skate park. Also they feel they have paid a premium price for their blocks sold to them from council, as they may have devalued with the announcement of the proposed park.

Also Council plans show a Child care centre to be located adjacent to this site. I don't believe these two complement each other. The other issue is that no off-street parking has been allocated and the safety of users could be compromised because of the parking in the street and the proximity on the junction at the roundabout.

Surely a couple of better options would have been the old Basketball court site in the Industrial Estate or even part of the Tennis Courts site in the Industrial Estate. Both are council owned with existing roads, paths, lighting and roads infrastructure, without a residential background to deal with. They are also located centrally between the two suburbs giving greater access for teenagers and others.

I ask that you give due consideration to the residents who would be directly affected 24/7 and place any Skateboard park facility in a more appropriate place.

I look forward to your replies.

Thank you,

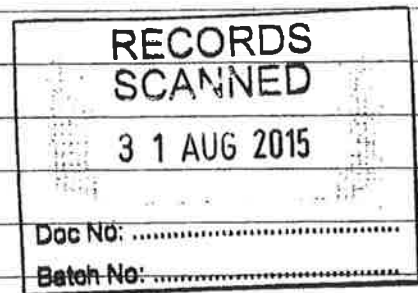
Po Box
Alstonville 2477

26/8/15

Dear Councilors,

As a scooter rider, I would really like to have the Skate park on the corner of Plateau Dr and Riffle Range Rd to go ahead. The skate park would be an awesome place to hang out and ride. I would really like this to happen and I strongly recommend that the Ballina Shire Council support the proposed development of the Wollongbar Skate park

Sincerely,





Alstonville High School

PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Cawley Close, Alstonville 2477. Ph: (02) 6628 5222. Fax: (02) 6628 1223



Tuesday, 1 September 2015

The General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
BALLINA NSW 2478

Re: Wollongbar Skate Park

Dear Councillors,

As members of the local community, a motion was passed at last week's meeting (26th August 2015) in support the proposed skate park on the corner of Plateau Drv and Riffle Range Rd Wollongbar as this will benefit many young people living in our local community.

We believe it is important to have recreational spaces for young people and to give them opportunities to develop new skills and gain confidence in a safe environment.

We strongly recommend that the Ballina Shire Council support the proposed development of the Wollongbar skate park on the corner of Plateau Dr and Riffle Range Rd.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'All' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Andrew Philippzig-Mann
President 01/09/2015.

Sent:
Subject:
Attachments:

Saturday, 5 September 2015 2:55 PM
WASP Submission
WASP submission.pdf

Hello,

I have sent through our submission to council regarding the Masterplan for the proposed skate park. We are looking forward to the public consultation dates as council will see the community support first hand.

Regards,

Wollongbar Skate Park Masterplan

Submission to council from the Wollongbar Alstonville Skate Park (WASP) group

The Wollongbar Alstonville Skate Park (WASP) group was formed to represent community support for a skate park in the Alstonville / Wollongbar area. WASP has identified a clear need for the provision of an outdoor skate park facility that can accommodate different ages and abilities. Since the group was formed a huge interest in the local skate park has been documented. There are currently 528 likes on our Facebook page. According to our members there have been over 30 attempts to build a skate park in this area in the last 15 years.

Members of WASP fully support the development of the proposed skate park on the corner of Rifle Range Rd and Plateau Dr. However, we strongly recommend an increase in the size of the proposed skate park to a minimum 1000 sqm.

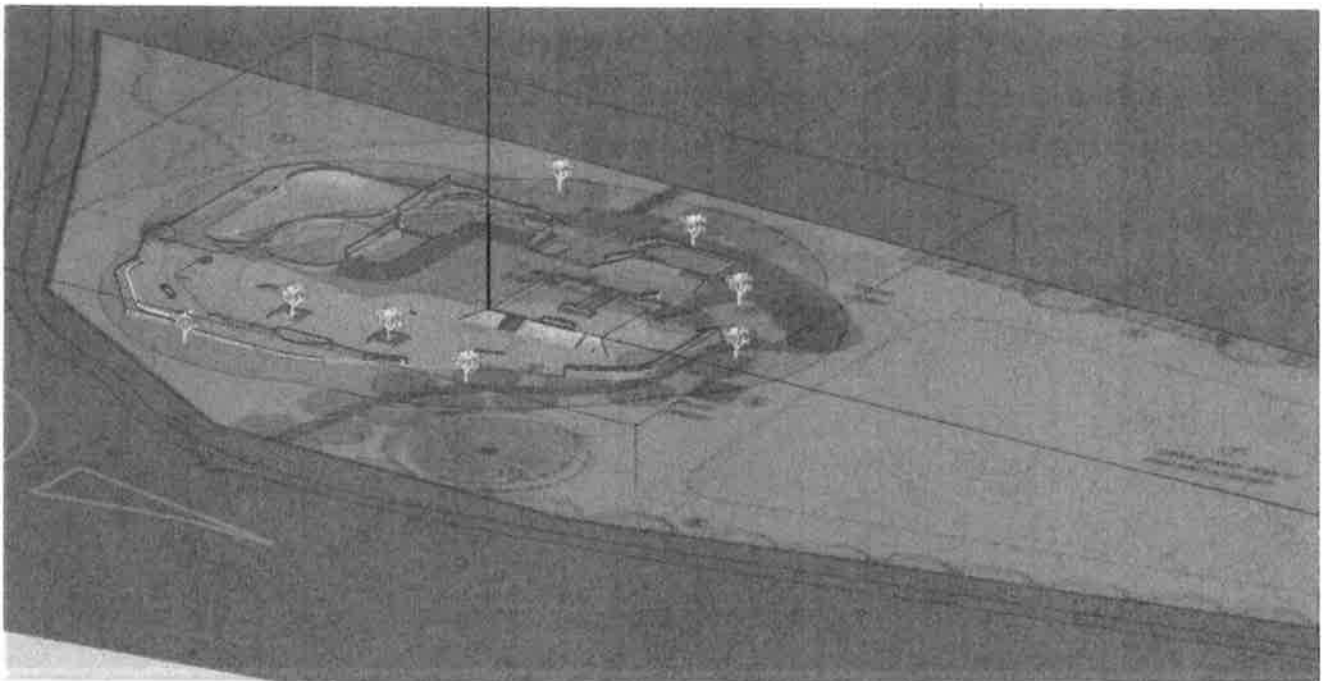


Image of the proposed 1200sqm skate park superimposed on the current master plan

On 23 July Council passed a motion to assess support for the skate park based on a maximum 750 sqm area. As part of this submission WASP has included a digital model of a 1200 sqm skate park, which the skate park group believes is the ideal area required for different sports, age groups and abilities.

An important design principle we advocate is progression: users of the park can move through levels ranging from beginner to advanced. That is the driving motivation to increase the size from that proposed in the current draft Masterplan. It is also noted that the skate park will be located next to a childcare centre / preschool. It is therefore anticipated that extra space will be required to accommodate the range of ages expected to use the park.

The proposed 750 sqm area runs the risk of compressing users and increasing harm. An increased area would appropriately cater to a broad demographic.

Members of WASP acknowledge that councilors will make a decision based on a number of considerations. However we believe this is a unique opportunity for the Alstonville / Wollongbar community to benefit from a fantastic skate park facility that could meet the needs of a broad cross section of children, young people and adults alike.

On behalf of WASP

5-09-2015

Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2015 3:48 PM
Subject: No Subject

Please pass onto all councillors.

Further to my previous letter against the siting of the Skateboard park in Wollongbar off Rifle Range road, I would like to reinforce my position with the following views.

Citing experiences recently with the Nambucca Heads Skate facility, the residents, who some are located well within 100 meters from the park and were in place and paying rates before the facility was constructed, are continuing to seek legal action against the council for anti-social behaviour within the 100 meters zone. Examples of significant criminal behaviour, episodes of bad language and public urinating by users within earshot and sight of residents. Nambucca council have had to instal security fencing to limit useage of the site due to the proximity of residents. This is not proving to be a great siting of the facility.

Some Council members in Nambucca have been quoted in the local Advocate that they failed to act in the best interests of the ratepaying residents and are finding it difficult to find a solution now that the park is in place for all stakehoders involved. Please do not move ahead to the construction phase of this Masterplan if you have any empathy for the residents who have purchased land and are constructing homes in good faith from the council in Tectona Place, and the existing residents in close proximity, and who will be expected to suffer the issues with living next door to such an establishment. Also future residents behind the area and the proposed Child Care facility adjacent to the zone. I'm sure that parents of these young children won't be happy with the language that will be heard nearby.

In all my research many of the troublemakers are not necessarily the skaters but are the fringe crowd that the facility attracts. One of many good references is the Sunshine Coast Council report on siting of SkateParks. One of its design criteria is that there should be an absolute minimum of 80 meters from residential areas to help mitigate noise pollution.

Discussions with local real estate agents confirms my opinion that if the houses are with earshot and direct line of sight there would be a lowering of value of those properties and an increased difficulty of sale. Council needs to reflect on this after it has just sold this adjoining land in Tectona Place in good faith without making it quite clear that there may have been an intention to site a Skate park opposite.

While there is still time are ask council to seriously look at other sites between the two villages, eg. the old basketball court or tennis club in the Wollongbar Industrial Estate, as more appropriate venues and look after the welfare and outlook of the ratepaying residents that the council represent.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sent:
Subject:

Tuesday, 15 September 2015 7:41 PM
Skate park

Hi

My name is _____, I have lived in Wollongbar for 13 years. I have grown up in the community and feel i have a good touch on the affects a skate park would have if built at the suggested area.

About a year ago My partner and I decided to search for a property to begin our life together. We stumbled upon a Block of land on the corner of Plateau Drive and Riflerange road. Soon to be Tectona place. We placed a deposit on this block of land and once doing this 6 months later we have started paying rates.

The point i am trying to make is that i started paying rates before there was any notice of a Skate park to be plonked across the road and bringing the value of my block and soon to be house down. I was not advised on this when looking at this land so why should i be affected by it? I am certainly not convinced it is a great place for a skate park not only because of poor consultation with land owners close to, but also it is situated on the main/only round about in wollongbar.

I have seen the kind of people that a skate park attracts. This gives an avenue for underage drinking. something i don't want to be across the road from. Not to mention the foul language that would come from the suggested crowd. I don't want to be starting a family in that sort of environment. The environment that you are unsure what is just over the back fence less then 40 meters away. Can i let the kids go outside or will the attitudes rub off on my offspring.

Why has the old tennis court or basketball court not been looked at for possible realestate?

At the end of the day I want to voice my opinion and that this is not how i expected to start my first land/building purchase. This is suppose to be an exciting time and at the moment my partner and i are feeling anxious about what is going on over the back fence.

Thanks for the time that you have given myself and my partner.

I look forward to your response.

Sent:

Thursday, 24 September 2015 1:33 PM

I _____, resident of Alstonville, support the Alstonville/Wollongbar skatepark. I believe this addition to the town would have a positive impact on the community as there are many young families. Research suggests that exercise in children is not only beneficial for their holistic health but also improves cognitive function. Children who participate in exercise achieve higher and more consistent results in schooling and are better able to focus. I believe we need strong minds and bodies to help our increasingly ageing population and developing a skatepark in Wollongbar/Alstonville will help the generation who will lead tomorrow.

Sincere and warm regards,

Sent: Wednesday, 16 September 2015 3:11 AM
Subject: Skate park, plateau drive, wollongbar

To whom it may concern,

My name is _____ and my wife and I bought a block of land at 5 Tectona place not having knowledge of a skate park being built across plateau drive. I feel as this area does not need a skate park and will bring unwanted persons/behaviours into a nice residential area. I know others in the area feel the same as my wife and I do and feel it is unfair to all who have purchased land in this area without knowledge of this skate park being erected.

Sincerely

Sent: Monday, 7 September 2015 5:29 PM
Subject: Skate park

I _____ support the wollongbar / Alstonville skate park

Sent from my iPhone

Sent: Wednesday, 22 July 2015 8:43 PM
Subject: Asltonville/Wollongbar skatepark

Dear Councillors

I am aware that the draft master plan will be considered at the next meeting on 23 July. I ask you to endorse this master plan with the recommendations put forward by the Wollongbar Alstonville Skate Park group. I would like to see a skatepark that is 1000 square metres so that different ages and abilities can enjoy this facility. Our community has wanted this for over 15 years. Will you endorse this plan?

To Ballina Shire Council, Manager
Open Spaces and Resource Recovery
Mr Cheyne Willebrands
PO Box 450
Ballina
2478



12th October 2015

Attention: Mr Cheyne Willebrands

**Re: submission to the Open Space Concept: Plateau Drive/ Rifle Range Rd
Wollongbar Proposed Skate Park**

My husband and I have been long term rate payers and residents of Wollongbar and object to the proposed open space development for a skate park sited on Plateau Drive/ Rifle Range Rd Wollongbar for the following reasons;

- The proposal provides facilities for a minority of the local community and does not meet the needs of the majority, many of whom are retirees
- It will attract an undesirable, out of area element to the site- there is anecdotal evidence to support this
- The facility will be unsupervised thus provide opportunity for underage consumption of alcohol and other illicit substances as well as mischief making
- The space will not entice a family friendly atmosphere for both young families or for the elderly as there are no safe walking areas, bar-b-que or seating facilities
- There has been no inclusion of an environmentally friendly habitat that will protect and encourage native flora and fauna, there is a family of blue wrens inhabiting the area presently and these will be forced out of the site
- Skate parks are not generally located in such a densely populated area, due to noise, the congregating of large numbers of teenagers and issues in regard to parking and associate traffic.

Overall we are extremely disappointed in regards to the poor consultation process and the limited options put forward by the council on the future use of this important site. Particularly as this is one of very few open spaces available to the local Wollongbar community.

3 Wollongbar Drive,
WOLLONGBAR 2477

27th October 2015

Mr Paul Hickey, General Manager,
Ballina Council,
PO Box 450,
Ballina. 2478

For Attention: Cheyne Willebrands,
Manager, Open Spaces & Resource Recovery.



Dear Paul,

Please find attached submission on the Community Open Space in Wollongbar.

Thank you.

.....

Submission: Open Space , Rifle Range Rd and Plateau Drive, Wollongbar:

Allocation of space for passive recreation has been discussed and sought by the Wollongbar community since the early days of planning for the expansion of the village.

Indeed, it is included in the planning, as Council's Contributions Plan of 2008 indicates:

*... an additional 2 ha of land for a **District Park**, to service the needs of the estimated 2500" **new residents** of Wollongbar (Report 9.2, p. 251)*

Ballina Council defines **district parks** as

centrally located reserves that may include picnic and social/recreation including picnic shelters, walking opportunities, public art and play equipment (BSCP 2008, p. 29).

In 2014, (Planning Proposal - June 2014) staff reported to Council in the following terms:

*The **district park** now proposed to be provided on Lots 5 and 6 is reconfigured in shape so that it has greater utility as a **district park**, (p.9)*

District parks are for passive recreation, for socialising and relaxation. The space allocation for a district park in Wollongbar was 1.8 ha. This size of the allocation was reduced to 1ha in 2014, on the basis that the new sports fields would meet active recreational needs.

If a skating facility is included in any plan for the reduced area allocated for a **district park**, then it must be a small, family oriented facility that will have no attraction for older skaters.

The emphasis of Wollongbar's **district park** must be one that encourages people to come together, with appropriate infrastructure that encourages wide community use of the space.

We feel particularly disappointed that the emphasis in the draft plan on exhibition and in the community consultation process, when Council staff visited Wollongbar, was centred solely around the skate park:

- * seating at the skate park - none for other people;
- * pathway leading to the skate park - no pathways for other people;
- * picnic shelters adjacent to the skate park - none for people not interested in having their picnic to the tune of skate boarding.

A skate park would be more appropriately located within the sports field area; alternatively, an embellishment of the current site in the industrial estate - this site has been functioning for years without incident.

Council commissioned Greg Alderson & Associates to undertake a Noise Impact Assessment on the WUEA site. The resulting Report to Council, in August 2014, indicated a number of challenges, not least of which was the inability to site a skating facility sufficiently far from residential homes. The Report indicated a recommended distance of 80 metres, but stated that homes and the proposed child care facility would be just 30 to 50 metres away from the skating area in this location.

In all conscience, Council could not contemplate such a plan! People currently living near-by are extremely concerned at the possible ramifications of an 'all hours' facility at this site.

By the way, the following is an extract from the Skate Park for Alstonville and Wollongbar FACEBOOK page:

10th October @ 18.27

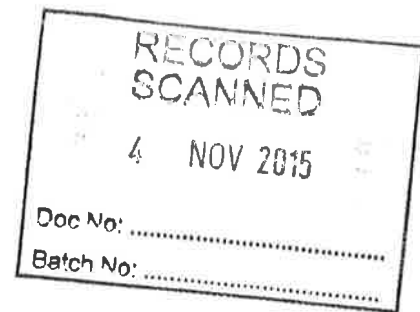
JUST HAD GREAT NEWS CLIP ON NBN, MORE TO FOLLOW IN THE ECHO, WELL DONE TO ALL WHO TURNED UP TO SHOW UR SUPORT TODAY, SHOP OWNERS AND SKATER SCOOTERS, BIKERS FROM ALL AROUND THE AREA, EVANS HEAD, LENOX, BALINA, NIMBIN, LISMORE, BIG EFFORT THANK YOU ALL

So much for planning for local skaters.

Councillors, please find another site for a skate park. Develop this park as an attractive and inviting community space for relaxation, exploration and social activities for Wollongbar people.

Email:

3 November 2015



Submission to Council re Open Spaces – Wollongbar

Please accept my submission regarding the Open Spaces area planning for Plateau Drive and Rifle Range Road, Wollongbar.

What do I envisage for this park?

Taking into consideration the 2011 Census informs us that 60.7% of our residents are over 35 years of age, with 16.5 % of those over 65 and with the focus on health and well-being for all sectors of society, I envisage a space which is inclusive of ALL ages groups in THIS community.

The proposed draft plan on display by Ballina Shire Council staff on Saturday 10 October 2015 indicates that there is very little passive recreational space for those who have disabilities, the elderly and family or community gatherings.

Within Wollongbar there are wonderful new fields set aside for ball games and rugby union fields, a cricket oval and a number of great little park spaces which cater to the very young, however other passive spaces which are actually inclusive of the whole of the community seem to be non-existent.

I would suggest the inclusion of:

- Areas with roaming pathways for small children to learn to ride a bike or scooter, and to be suitable for wheelchairs or wheelie-walkers to access;
- BBQ's for community get-togethers;
- Piazza type spaces – seating in shaded areas;
- Tables with games facility (eg chess squares);
- Exercise stations in a variety of areas to encourage movement;
- Exercise stations suitable for people who have physical challenges to use;
- Garden spaces;
- Ball game space;
- Toilet facilities;
- Innovative kids playground equipment.

As the displayed park plan really only focussed on the skate park, with little to no consideration given to any other recreational purpose, I would ask that you take the following comments into consideration.

Firstly, I believe a skate park is a good thing for the youth of the area.

I **do not** believe this space at Plateau Drive and Rifle Range Road is suitable, considering the area is to be:

1. in close proximity to residents,
2. further planned residential area and
3. an area marked for future pre-school facility.

I understand there is a recommendation regarding noise attenuation distance between residents and the proposed skate park and I do not believe this recommendation was taken into consideration in the plan displayed on Saturday 10 October 2015.

Most would not deny that the noise factor would impose on the lifestyle and mental health well being, of those who currently do or with proposed council planning, will in the future, live close by.

Other Social Issues

The proximity to the steep descent of Plateau Drive and the inability to prevent youth from seeking the thrill of riding down the road way is of great concern to me:

1. It is well know by residents that this is already an issue, with many near misses being a common occurrence.
2. Speed travelled on Plateau Drive is already a concern to local residents, as is the speed on the roundabout.
3. Who is to take responsibility should an accident take place?

Footpaths are few and far between in our town to safely ride to access the site, which will encourage riding on the roads, yet another safety issue.

Sadly, large gatherings of young people inevitably lead to vandalism, littering and unacceptable behaviour, such as has in recent times been reported at Bullwinkle Park in Alstonville.

1. Local residents should not have to deal with these issues placing themselves, their families and their property at risk from aggressive behaviour.
2. Nor should they become 'baby sitters' to children who are 'dropped off' to skate while their parents go away to do other things.

Alternatives:

After checking out our town, the only real site I suggest as an alternative would be the new sports ground facilities which are currently underdevelopment.

Or, the basketball court area at the corner of Kay's Lane and the exit from the by-pass could be developed further to accommodate the facility. This space is already in regular use by skaters.

Both of these areas would impact least on residents and

1. a decent size facility may be more easily accommodated and
2. would be a half way area between the Alstonville and Wollongbar townships.

I understand that the issues of traffic but I think no less of a hazard than negotiating roads and the traffic travelling to the Plateau Drive/Rifle Range Road site.

In conclusion, the displayed plan appears to ignore the needs of the local residents to focus on a minority need in our community. Many of our older residents are concerned that this lovely area could become an unenviable area in which to live.

Yours Sincerely

RECORDS
SCANNED

- 9 NOV 2015

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

WOLLONGBAR NSW 2477

Email:

Submission to Council re Open Spaces – Wollongbar

Please accept my submission regarding the Open Spaces area planning for Plateau Drive and Rifle Range Road, Wollongbar.

The proposed draft plan on display by Ballina Shire Council staff on Saturday 10 October 2015 indicates that there is very little passive recreational space for those who have disabilities, the elderly and family or community gatherings.

Within Wollongbar there are wonderful new fields set aside for ball games and rugby union fields, a cricket oval and a number of great little park spaces which cater to the very young, however other passive spaces which are actually inclusive of the whole of the community seem to be non-existent.

I would suggest the inclusion of:

- Areas with roaming pathways for small children to learn to ride a bike or scooter, and to be suitable for wheelchairs or wheelie-walkers to access;
- BBQ's for community get-togethers;
- Piazza type spaces – seating in shaded areas;
- Exercise stations in a variety of areas to encourage movement;
- Exercise stations suitable for people who have physical challenges to use;
- Garden spaces;
- Ball game space;
- Toilet facilities;
- Innovative kids playground equipment.

As the displayed park plan really only focussed on the skate park, with little to no consideration given to any other recreational purpose, I would ask that you take the following comments into consideration.

Firstly, I believe a skate park is a good thing for the youth of the area.

I **do not** believe this space at Plateau Drive and Rifle Range Road is suitable, considering the area is to be in close proximity to residents, further planned residential area and a future pre-school facility.

I understand there is a recommendation regarding noise attenuation distance between residents and the proposed skate park and I do not believe this recommendation was taken into consideration in the plan displayed on Saturday 10 October 2015.

Most would not deny that the noise factor would impose on the lifestyle and mental health well being, of those who currently do or with proposed council planning, will in the future, live close by.

Other Social Issues

The proximity to the steep descent of Plateau Drive and the inability to prevent youth from seeking the thrill of riding down the road way is of great concern to me:

1. It is well know by residents that this is already an issue, with many near misses being a common occurrence.
2. Speed travelled on Plateau Drive is already a concern to local residents, as is the speed on the roundabout.
3. Who is to take responsibility should an accident take place?

Footpaths are few and far between in our town to safely ride to access the site, which will encourage riding on the roads, yet another safety issue.

Sadly, large gatherings of young people inevitably leads to vandalism, littering and unacceptable behaviour, such as has in recent times been observed at Bullwinkle Park in Alstonville. It is well known that there is no police presence in Alstonville/Wollongbar so this will encourage groups from other areas.

1. Local residents should not have to deal with these issues placing themselves and their property at risk from aggressive behaviour.
2. Nor should they become 'baby sitters' to children who are 'dropped off' to skate while their parents go away to do other things.

Alternatives:

After checking out our town, the only real site I suggest as an alternative would be the new sports ground facilities which are currently underdevelopment.

Alternatively, the basketball court area at the corner of Kay's Lane and the exit from the by-pass could be developed further to accommodate the facility. This space is already in regular use by skaters. I notice the tennis court area across the road is up for lease/development. I hope this had no bearing on the former decision to look elsewhere.

Both of these areas would impact least on residents and a decent size facility may be more easily accommodated and would be a half way area between the Alstonville and Wollongbar townships.

I understand that the issues of traffic but I think no less of a hazard than negotiating roads and the traffic travelling to the Plateau Drive/Rifle Range Road site.

In conclusion, the displayed plan appears to ignore the needs of the local residents to focus on a minority need in our community.

From:
Subject: **covering letter**
Date: 6 November 2015 2:46:02 PM AEDT
To:
▶ 1 Attachment, 38.4 KB

RECORDS SCANNED - 9 NOV 2015 Doc No..... Batch No.....
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WOLLONGBAR PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.
PO Box 101, Wollongbar 2477 Telephone: 66283880

6th November 2015

Mr P Hickey, General Manager,
Ballina Council,
PO Box 450
BALLINA 2478

Dear Mr Hickey,

Please find enclosed Wollongbar Progress Association's submission on the development of community open space at the corner of Rifle Range Rd and Plateau Drive, Wollongbar.

It would be appreciated if Council could let us know when the report on the Draft Plan will be going to a Council Meeting.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Wollongbar Progress Association Inc.

WOLLONGBAR PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

PO Box 101, Wollongbar 2477

Telephone: 66283880

30th October 2015

Mr P. Hickey, General Manager,
Ballina Council.
PO Box 450,
BALLINA 2478

For Attention: Mr Cheyne Willebrands,
Manager Open Spaces and Resource Recovery

Dear Mr Hickey,

SUBMISSION:

Draft Masterplan : Corner Plateau Drive and Rifle Range Rd, Wollongbar.

We thank Council for the opportunity to comment on this Plan, as this area of open space is of significant importance to the future of all residents in the village.

Whilst this might be viewed as overstatement, the reality is, this is the last and only large area of open space that will offer the opportunity for informal active and passive recreation for those who live in Wollongbar; thus, it is vital to ensure that appropriate infrastructure that encompasses all age groups is included in the planning.

REDUCED AREA OF OPEN SPACE:

The area available for recreational pursuits has been reduced over time, as some facilities originally included in planning – for example, netball courts – have been relocated to the Wollongbar Sports Field (WFS) site. The idea of including a skating area within the site was put to Council in 2012. At that time, the site was almost two hectares.

In 2014, the site was reduced to one hectare.

The report to Council (June 2014) noted:

The current proposed (reduced) size and shape of the proposed public recreation land presents further challenges to the location of district park facilities, such as a skate park, upon this land.

(Ordinary Meeting, 26/6/'14, p. 11)

WPA Inc agrees that young people need space for their pursuits, and skating is a popular pastime for many, particularly boys; however, it is not equitable to allocate a significant part of this reduced whole-community space to the construction of a skating area.

On this basis, WPA proposes the skating facility be located at another site. The two sites strongly supported by local people that have been involved in discussions with WPA are the WSF area and the current site at the Industrial Area on Kays Lane.

Our community asks Council to develop and improve this Plateau Drive / Rifle Range Rd open space for the whole community. Our suggestions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- strategic landscaping, to provide shade and beautification
- pathways for young children to use scooters, bikes and trikes (reference: Wade Park in Lismore), and for general walking
- open grassed areas (reference: Fawcett Park, Ballina)
- seating, with space planned for people to come together
- toilets
- shelter sheds
- drinking fountain/s
- static exercise equipment at intervals
- play equipment for very young and for older children

We understand that such facilities are not in Council's budget; however, it is important that these facilities are included in planning for the development of this area of Open Space, and that Council is seen to be taking decisions to cater for the whole Wollongbar community.

REASONS THE PLATEAU DRIVE SITE IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR A SKATE PARK:

- family-oriented passive recreational space has been planned for and discussed with Council since the 90s, the early days of planning for the expansion of Wollongbar.
- lack of communication: Councillors have said a skate park has been planned for the site for some years, but Wollongbar people were unaware of this plan.

- trend to larger homes on smaller blocks, clearly evident in the WUEA, results in limited opportunities for families, and younger children, to be involved in unregulated free play on equipment, trikes and scooters, throwing and catching games, etc.
- the skating area may take a tenth of the overall space, but the associated infrastructure – pathway, tiered seating, space around the area – will impact negatively on the reduced space available for all other users of the park.
- dangerous access routes: the site is only accessed via one of two busy roads: Rifle Range Rd carries a heavy volume of traffic, particularly in the mornings and evenings; Plateau Drive becomes busier by the month, as new residents move into their new homes in the estate; the gradient of Plateau Drive is exciting for young riders and skaters, and drivers have experienced 'close calls' as riders 'fly' down the slope, usually not on the side of the road; the round-about is busy, and attracts irresponsible driving behaviour.
- open access: Council cannot ensure that local residents will not be affected by inappropriate behaviour, as skating would be occurring at any time, including late at night; skaters will use lighting from the round-about, or wear headlamps for after-hours activities.
- noise impact on residents: Greg Alderson and Associates Report to Council in 2014 recommended a minimum distance of 80 metres from houses, and reported that, at this site, residents will be as close as 30 metres.
(See extracts from Report at Appendix 2)
- feasibility of site: Greg Alderson and Associates Report to Council in August 2014 said " ***we conclude that it is unlikely that sufficient distance attenuation would be available to achieve a skate park at the proposed site. The following measures could be considered to increase the likelihood that a skate park in this location would meet noise criteria ...*** " Five recommendations were outlined.
(See extracts from Report at Appendix 2)
- feasibility of site 2: Newton Denny Chapelle, Consulting Surveyors and Planners, detailed the failures of the site to provide acoustic isolation, and the significant design constraints of the site, and concluded, " ***given the above, it is our client's (Ballina Council) view that the subject land is not suitable for a skate park suitable to service the communities of Alstonville and Wollongbar. We note, however, that the Wollongbar Sports Field site is a substantial parcel of land and may***

provide a more suitable location for a large skate park facility" (p.8)
(See extracts from Council's Report at Appendix 3)

Given the comprehensive information that has been presented to Council over recent times, we are at a loss to understand why Council would continue investigating a skating facility that is clearly a hazardous undertaking for Council at this site.

Other site investigations

We understand that council has investigated a number of sites for a skating area on the Plateau. The staff report to council in December 2012 indicated the site that ticked the most boxes was **RUSSELLETON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE:**

- 1: Good access by bike paths from Alstonville and Wollongbar
- 2: Good visibility from the exit ramp (Bruxner H'way and Kays Lane)
- 3: No neighbouring residential properties
- 4: Currently used by youth for skating activities & basketball
- 5: Previous requests for a skate facility have centred around this site
- 6: No toilets / water, but (can be installed)
- 7: Council owned Community Land – General Community Use. (to be zoned RE1 Public Recreation in Draft BLEP 2012)

This site is mid-way between Alstonville and Wollongbar. The existing area could be re-configured / extended to meet current requirements of skaters. The current concrete slab takes up approximately 1/8 of the Council land available.

In spite of this, at the April 2013 Council Meeting, a decision was taken to not proceed with this site: The reasons given in the staff report to Council, and our responses to those reasons, are outlined below:

- * 1. Report said: Further inspection of the Kays Lane land has indicated that current access to the site is difficult due to the adjacent busy road and high proportion of heavy vehicles using it.

Response: a) Students from Alstonville High School have, for many years, regularly walked from the school to the tennis courts, situated on the other side of Kay's Lane, and there has never been an incident, let alone an accident.

b) Kays Lane does not carry as much traffic (including heavy vehicles) as Rifle Range Rd does.

c) Heavy vehicles using Kays Lane to leave a site in the Industrial Estate would be still going through gear changes to get to speed; those heavy vehicles entering the site would be travelling at very slow speed, having just, either, come from the off-ramp and stopped before turning into Kays Lane, or, come from Ballina Rd and turned into Kays Lane.

*2. Report said: Limited safe and convenient vehicle parking at the site is also identified as a negative factor.

Response: The current concrete slab takes up approximately one eighth (1/8) of the Council land available. Parking has to be planned and constructed for any site chosen, and parking could be incorporated here.

*3. Report said: Regular maintenance work to the pump station located within the fenced site is required. This involves trucks accessing the site, therefore increasing the potential risk to safety of the users of a skate facility on the land.

Response: With a reconfigured skate facility, the pump station could be sited / accessed separately.

*4. Report said: Installing modular skate boarding equipment at this site, even temporarily, will involve substantial costs. If this equipment is to be relocated in the longer term, further resources will need to be sourced to reinstall it elsewhere.

Response: Don't install modular equipment: build a proper facility in this location.

*5 Report said: (Modular installation costs), together with the safety issues regarding traffic and parking, deem the site unsuitable for the installation of a skate park facility in staff's opinion.

Response: Each Staff concern has been addressed: both traffic and parking issues can be addressed. Crossing the exit ramp is easier than crossing Rifle Range Rd. This site is feasible.

In planning for a Skate Park, we ask Council to consider the experiences of other Councils who have built skate parks within residential areas. We believe that Council must be proactive in this regard, rather than experience the problems associated with reactive management of issues arising after construction. Please note the information in our Attachment 1.

We have concerns that, on FACEBOOK, the Skate Park for Alstonville and Wollongbar page includes comments such as below, posted on 10th October at 18.27:

JUST HAD GREAT NEWS CLIP ON NBN, MORE TO FOLLOW IN THE ECHO, WELL DONE TO ALL WHO TURNED UP TO SHOW UR SUPORT TODAY, SHOP OWNERS AND SKATER SCOOTERS, BIKERS FROM ALL AROUND THE AREA, EVANS HEAD, LENOX, BALINA, NIMBIN, LISMORE, BIG EFFORT THANK YOU ALL

The Rifle Range Rd / Plateau Drive site is to be enhanced for Wollongbar community.

Also of concern is the Ballina Skate Shop owners, on their business FACEBOOK page, are encouraging "everyone" to give Ballina Council feedback on the skatepark.

(see Attachment 3)

We trust that Council will recognise the benefits of developing this smaller area of open space for the benefit of local people. We look forward to working with Council during future community consultation, to ensure optimum outcomes for all Wollongbar residents.

Wollongbar Progress Association Inc.

.....
....., President

Attachment 1:

The Experience of the residents surrounding the Skate Park, at Coronation Park, Nambucca Heads, opened in February, 2008:

Extract from a letter, written by Mark and Belinda Novicky, to the residents at Lake Macquarie who were concerned about behaviour at the skate park near them:

... the local Council has imposed this facility opposite the houses of ... residents without ... the respect to do anything appropriate to alleviate the ... trauma caused by ongoing antisocial behaviour, ranging from drug dealing, drug use, vandalism, violence, bullying, urination and defecation, alcohol consumption, late night parties, loud music, etc.

... the facility, after being rejected in ten other locations ... was manipulated to be where it is ... at the base of a smooth, steep hill that skaters ride down, unprotected, at frightening speeds ...

It seems that the Council, under pressure by an organised group of skaters and businessmen directly involved in the industry ...(influenced the location), ... confident that ... this (place) would be met with the least resistance ...being only a handful of pensioners.

The Nambucca residents group wrote to Council numerous times, complaining of the skaters failing to keep the Code of Conduct by using the park outside daylight hours, dealing and using drugs, consuming alcohol, playing loud music, and failing to respect neighbours by keeping noise to a minimum. The neighbours video-recorded behaviour, including footage of very young boys joining older boys to smoke weed.

Finally, the Residents took Council to the Land and Environment Court, and won, with costs awarded against Nambucca Council:

Novicky and Teasel V Nambucca Shire Council: Land and Environment Court Case Number 40434 of 2013: Applicant's Bundle of 52 Items of Evidence.

The Skate Park is now closed and fenced off.

Attachment 2:

* **DESKTOP NOISE IMPACT ASSESSMENT** : PROPOSED SKATE PARK WOLLONGBAR:
August 2014 : Greg Alderson & Associates).

Quotes from Report: ... nearest **residential receivers** ... will be located **Immediately to the north on Lot 6**. ...subdivision will also result in **residential receivers to the west** separated by Plateau Drive. There are also **currently residential receivers located to the south** separated from Lot 6 by Rifle Range Road. (these) residential receivers will be typically located within a range of 30 – 60m radius.(p.10)

...**most sensitive receivers** ...proposed residential **dwelling and childcare facility** bordering the public recreation area on Lot 6 DP 1161720. (p.10)

(a guide to distance is) **recommended minimum distance of 80 metres** between the skate area and a residential area to avoid light and noise intrusion. (p.17). (Subdivision masterplan indicates) the **maximum distance available** between the proposed park and the nearest sensitive receptors **is some 30 to 50 metres**. (p.17)

Consultant's conclusion:

" it is unlikely that sufficient distance attenuation would be available for a skate park at the proposed site. The following measures could be considered in order to increase the likelihood that a skate park at this location would meet noise criteria". (p.19)

(Measures included * **sinking the park** and placing an **acoustic barrier** to north and west perimeters * **restricting opening hours** of the skate park to daylight hours and not extending past 7pm.) (p.19)

Attachment 3:

The Truckstop Skate shop in Ballina is encouraging "everyone" to give Council feedback on the skatepark in Wollongbar:

Extract from FACEBOOK: Truckstop Skate Home (page):

Ok it is Do or Die time!! If you haven't given the Council feedback to support the new skatepark at Wollongbar, we need you to do it right now, it closes on the 9th of November!!! Click the link it only takes 2 minutes, tell you friends, tell everyone! If we dont get across the line its gone forever.

<http://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/surveys/TakeSurvey.asp...>



Wollongbar - Future Open Space Community Survey Survey

BALLINA.NSW.GOV.A



Remove

Angel Bikoumou Where do we sign ? Link is just a pic

Like · Reply · 2 November at 21:06



Remove

Truckstop Skate Clicking the pic should take you to <http://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/surveys/TakeSurvey.asp...>



Wollongbar - Future Open Space Community Survey Survey

BALLINA.NSW.GOV.AU

Attachment 4:

Staff Report information against the Rifle Range Rd / Plateau Drive site:

Ballina Council Ordinary Meeting, 26th June, 2014, Item 9.4, p. 73

The BSCP 2008 nominated a skate park for inclusion with facilities proposed to be located within a 3.8 hectare community and district park precinct proposed for the former drive-in site.

The size and shape of the proposed public recreation land within the former drive-in site has changed significantly since 2008 when a skate facility was first proposed. The original proposed public recreation area was approximately 3.8 hectares, subsequently reduced to approximately 2 hectares, and now approximately 1 hectare. This reduction in area, together with a change in site configuration, from north - south to east - west, gives rise to potential for greater impacts on proposed nearby residential lots.

The siting of a skate park within the proposed public recreation area now presents a number of challenges primarily related to the separation distances that would be available between the skate park and future dwellings.

Information contained within *The Skate Facility Guide* issues by Sport and Recreation Victoria suggests that a minimum 100 metre (desirably 200 metres) separation distance between a skate facility and a dwelling be provided from a noise reduction viewpoint. The proposed site provides separation distances of approximately half the minimum recommended and therefore noise reduction issues may pose particular challenges. (26/6/14. p.74)

A recently constructed skate park located within the Bangalow Sports Field site, ... was inspected from the viewpoint of determining whether a similarly sized facility would fit within the available area at Wollongbar. ...The Bangalow skate park is located approximately 150 metres from the nearest dwelling houses. Noise from this facility, generated by one skater, was clearly audible at a distance of approximately 120 metres. This observation heightened noise and amenity related concerns for the proposed Wollongbar site given separation distances are anticipated to be approximately a third of that provided at Bangalow.

Staff included their Consultant's report - (extracts):

- Provision of constructed measures to mitigate such noise will impact on the presentation of the park as well as limiting passive surveillance of the area....(p.75)
- Given perceptions within sectors of the community regarding behavioural issues associated with skate facilities, our clients are of the view that a large skate facility in this location has the potential to adversely impact on the capacity to market and sell allotments within the subdivision. Other developers within the WUEA may also share this concern. (p.75)

Email:

The general Manager
Ballina Council
PO BOX 450
Ballina
NSW 2478

RECORDS SCANNED - 9 NOV 2015 Doc No..... Batch No.....
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Wollongbar
NSW 2477.
6th November 2015

Attention Cheyne Willebrands

Regarding the proposed skate park in the Alstonville-Wollongbar area.

I am not against skate parks in general, particularly when they are part of a sports complex. But I do believe the present chosen location is most unfortunate. In fact I wonder at it being proposed at all, as it is so obviously unsuitable.

As others have pointed out, both on the information day and in the media, it is a dangerous spot for young people to be skating in, being very close to a main road, (which they will have to use to access it) and which will inevitably become more and more used, by increasing through traffic. Also it is close to a roundabout, which already attracts some dangerous driving, at all times of the day.

Moreover, it will be very noisy for residents in the close neighbourhood, many of whom chose this spot for their homes a number of years ago. I am, fortunately for me, well away from the noisy area, but I feel very sorry for the local people, whether in the older houses or on the new estate. Not only will they hear the clashing and clanging of the actual skaters, but they will also suffer from some of the people passing, who might want to make their presence obvious.

It was very interesting to see the large number of people from Alstonville, organised to attend the Information Day. Obviously they want a skate park, but equally obviously they do not want it in their vicinity. They are very happy to share a skate park with the Wollongbar people, but, it seems, as far away from their own area as possible. And surely, we want young people to partake of as much exercise as possible.

So, by all means let there be a skate park, but surely the council can find a better spot than the presently suggested one.

It would be much more suitable where there are already sports grounds or maybe even better in The Industrial Centre, where there are already some sports areas and no local houses. And, I understand there are already safe paths accessing the area, for the skate boarders to travel to and from their park.

We expect our councillors to think sensibly (and our waste management arrangements show they are very capable of this) and to explore all possibilities, before making what could be a very costly and rather foolish mistake.

Yours faithfully,

From:

Sent:

Monday, 9 November 2015 12:47 PM

Subject:

Submissions for Wollongbar Skatepark

Dear

Last year my husband and I spoke to you about the proposal to place a skateboard park on the old drive-in site at Wollongbar.

Lately regarding the new push to have it here, I have given a submission over the counter at the office. I have also sent in, in the council feedback format several additional concerns that have arisen.

Could/would you please be able to advise if these have been received and are also included in the submissions.

Two of the latest feedbacks I have sent are regarding:

1. The worry to older residents about the devaluing of their homes or the inability to be able to sell their homes, which has occurred at Nambucca Heads, as they regard this as a nest egg/superannuation to pay for their entry into aged care when the time arrives. As the cost of doing this requires the sale of your home to afford the bond which aged care facilities require on entry. If such a situation does arise will the council or the skateboard club compensate the resident.

2. A local who was a skater in his younger days, has said as there are no Police in Alstonville or Wollongbar, skaters from Brisbane to Newcastle will love the Wollongbar skatepark. If bad behaviour, drug trafficking or other criminal situations arise it would take Police half an hour at least to come from Lismore or Ballina. This is a very serious concern to lump on the residents.

Regards

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

From:

Sent:

Subject:

Monday, 9 November 2015 10:06 AM

Development of Community Open Space at the Corner of Plateau Drive and Rifle Range Road, Wollongbar

To The General Manager,

I would like to submit the following points regarding this development.

I have lived on Smiths Lane, Wollongbar since June 1989 and have always been aware of the promised renewal by Council of the land formerly used by the Drive in theatre on Rifle Range Road. We have watched and wondered but I don't recall that we have ever been invited to join in a community consultation about the details of a plan for this space. We certainly didn't know about the reduction of the area of land to be offered for the use of the community until very recently. This reduction in favour of the developer's desire for more housing is disappointing as it limits the number of activities that might be conducted on this land and starts to limit the range of members of the community who have been looking forward to using this space,

- * seniors looking for a safe pleasant space to walk,
- * young parents with children looking for a safe and interesting space to walk and ride bicycles and scooters safely
- * people of all ages looking for an open space with exercise equipment in place
- * a space with BBQ and picnic shelters and park benches where several families can gather to celebrate life
- * a space with trees and gardens, little hills and dales and big rocks and climbing equipment where children can play
- their residential blocks are so small that this wonderful and natural game of hide and seek is impossible.
- * an off-leash area for pets.
- * toilets

I am in favour of a skate park facility in the area for the children of Alstonville and Wollongbar but I believe that the above area is not suitable because of the following:

- * too close to the neighbouring residences and proposed childcare facility,
- * encourages skaters to an area that is already dangerous because of the steep hill on Plateau Drive, and the speed at which cars and trucks travel on Rifle Range Road.
- * There are too many roads to cross to access the facility.
- * It is quite a distance for Alstonville children to travel.
- * The new park being built would be a better venue or the Russelton Estate site should be reconsidered - both being halfway between the villages and accessible by bicycle paths.

Please consider the above reasons for rejecting the skateboard park at the above site and consider the uses I have outlined for inclusion in the above community space.

Yours sincerely,

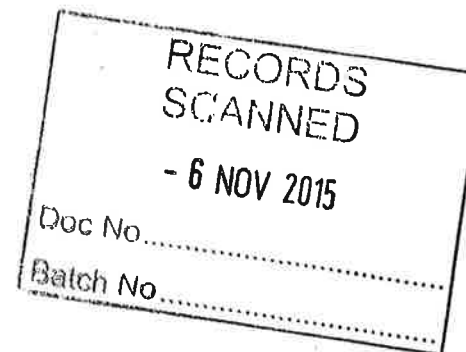
Wollongbar NSW 2477

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SUBMISSION TO: Ballina Shire Council
FROM:
DATE: 29 October 2015
SUBJECT: Proposed Wollongbar Skateboard Park



Dear Sir//Madam

I would like to submit our concerns regarding the proposed Wollongbar Skateboard Park.

1. SAFETY

The safety of children crossing Rifle Range Road, to go to the skate park is of great concern, due to the large amount of traffic using this road.

Only this week a vehicle crashed into the safety rails and a tree at the crossing on Rifle Range Road Wollongbar from a park in Avalon Estate South to Avalon Estate North.

Other pedestrian crossings closer to the site are subject to hoon/rev. heads doing burnouts around the roundabout at the intersection of Rifle Range Road and Plateau Drive Wollongbar.

The likely hood of children on their skateboards using the road to go to the park as there are only limited footpaths for them to use in the area.

2. NOISE

The building of the skate park would have to take into consideration noise impact. The original proposed design submitted to the council by the consultant Mr. Alderton suggested the site was unsuitable.

3. EXAMPLE A.

Coffs Harbour local newspaper has an article about the many problems the council is facing about bad behaviour etc., and possible litigation they may incur. The incidence of parents dropping off children at the roundabout forced the council to alter the lanes around the roundabout for the safety of all. However, this then created traffic jams at this roundabout that the majority of residents now have to endure.

4. EXAMPLE B.

In Nambucca Heads neighbours of the skateboard park took the Council to the Land and Environment Court and they had to enclose the skate park with a fence with locked gates and the park is open to the public from, I believe, 7.00am to 7.00pm.

5. EXAMPLE C.

Tweed Heads council and many other skateboard park facilities around NSW and Australia give information/examples of the unsuitability of skateboard parks in residential areas. Tweed Heads specifically state the cost of cleaning, maintenance, and the need to remove offensive graffiti with expensive chemicals, then damaging the surfaces of the park.

6. REVENUE CAPABILITES.

The development of the old drive in site for residential purposes involving approximately 50 home sites, will be a financial bonus to the council, with the sale, however, the skate park would devalue this income to council, additionally buyers would all pay rates (shooting oneself in the foot syndrome). Home owners in the current council subdivision are very concerned about the proximity to their homes and one home only just completed is up for sale as the owner does not want to live with the prospective status, i.e. noise, vandalism, graffiti that skateboard parks are renowned for.

7. COMMUNITY PRIORITIES / ALTERNATIVES

Residents feel that the area known as the slab by local young people, in the Russelton Industrial site owned by Ballina Shire Council and/or the tennis courts currently up for sale by council (***this sale should be withdrawn***). Community and residents priorities would be better served if this site were selected.

If the sale of the tennis court site takes place, the new owner would be looking for a profitable outcome. Would a skateboard park then at the slab, spoil the aspirations of the new owner? Is the council mollycoddling a potential buyer rather than looking after resident/ratepayers/voters concerns.

Investigations should be carried out on the suitability of these sites. There are shops nearby where the uses could purchase a drink and/or something to eat. Toilet facilities and amenities are already in place.

This site has good visibility from Kays Lane, where traffic slows on the approach to, and exits from, and on the bypass. If it were to be located there, these sites have a walkway as well, (no need to skate on the road) for the convenience and easy access of Alstonville

and Wollongbar residents.

Another alternative would be the sporting fields currently under construction between Alstonville and Wollongbar. The inclusion of the skateboard park there would put young people in the picture, notify, inform, educate skaters of other sporting activities available they may want to be involved in as well, in the area

Has the Council perhaps with, through lobbying by other interested parties, decided to rid surrounding areas of their riff raff elements and place the skateboard park in Wollongbar thinking it would be a site with the least amount of residential resistance???

8. COUNCIL INFORMATION DAY/ COMMUNITY CONSULTATION.

A consultation with local residents has never occurred.

Recently, the council held an information day in Wollongbar; local residents attended and completed survey sheets. Other skaters/people attended who do not live in this area and who also completed survey sheets.

The impression was they were ***RENT A CROWD*** and the evidence for this seems to be on the Ballina Skate Shop Face book page as shown below.

**An extract from
Skate Park for Alstonville and Wollongbar Face book
page:
10th October 18.27pm**

**JUST HAD GREAT NEWS CLIP ON NBN, MORE TO FOLLOW IN THE ECHO, WELL DONE TO ALL WHO TURNED UP
TO SHOW UR SUPORT TODAY, SHOP OWNERS AND SKATER SCOOTERS, BIKERS FROM ALL AROUND THE AREA,
EVANS
HEAD, LENOX, BALINA, NIMBIN, LISMORE, BIG EFFORT THANK YOU ALL**

9. CODE OF CONDUCT.

Has there been any published information regarding a code of conduct for skateboard parks.

Would a code of conduct be enforceable? Other examples of a code of conduct by councils, were found, not to be lawfully enforceable.

e.g.

Respect and share Skate Park.

Fair go for all users of all ages.

Help look after young skaters

Helmets and pads are recommended.

Use only during daylight hours.

Respect neighbourhood by limiting noise.

Be considerate to the neighbourhood when coming and going.

Behave responsibly.

Skate within your ability.

Protect your skate park by reporting damage.

No alcohol, drugs or smoking.

No glass.

No loud music.

No graffiti.

10. IN SUMMARY

WHO WILL THE COUNCIL TAKE NOTICE OF ????

RESIDENTS

Do council wish to destroy the ambiance of the Wollongbar area, the reason people move there in the first place.

Do council have an ulterior motive for not selecting more obviously suitable sites.

Do Council condone the inconvenience/expense to ratepayers/taxpayers when the Council (you), Police, Ambulance must be contacted at all hours day and/or night when incidents arise warranting such action. *If it disturbs my sleep it will disturb your sleep too.*

Do council believe we live in a perfect world and these concerns are unfounded.

Please do your homework.

The comparisons are of one site effecting hundreds of houses, the other site/sites where there are no residences that would be affected.

Evidence suggests the noise would carry more than 300 metres. As well the noise from skaters going to and from the site either individually or in groups 24/7.

Yours sincerely

p.s.

PLEASE ADVISE THE DATE OF THE NEXT COUNCIL ELECTION

Submission re Development of Wollongbar Open Space at corner of
Plateau Drive and Rifle Range Road, Wollongbar

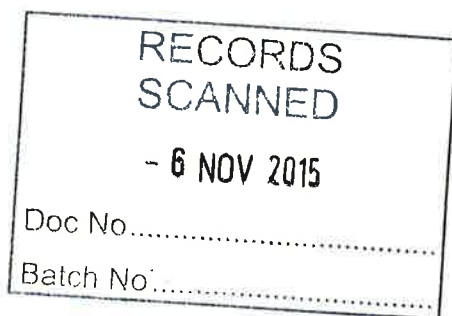
When I moved to Wollongbar over 20 years ago, it was a quiet, green residential area – a haven from the hustle and bustle of many an urban area. Already, here, while at home or out walking or driving, we are suffering the noise and danger of young folk doing “wheelies” at the roundabout at the above corner, or of their careering down Plateau Drive on their boards. To bring more skaters to the area, and not just from our neighbourhood, but from as far afield as Byron Bay, as several boasted at the on-site meeting, will increase not only noise, but traffic congestion and pollution, and danger to local pedestrians.

Obviously, local youth of Alstonville and Wollongbar need somewhere to expend their energy, and there appear to be other suitable areas – Russellton Industrial Area, the sporting oval complex, with access from both Alstonville and Wollongbar – for the addition of a skate park. Local residents from neither neighbourhood would be impinged upon. In the noise impact statement of 2014, it was recommended that skate areas and residential areas be at least 80 metres distant – not the case at Wollongbar, where some folk would be as close as 30 metres. Why are we to be subject to such an insult when Council rejected other residential areas apparently on such grounds.

As well, lights from the roundabout will encourage night skating, even if those at the facility are turned off.

The present proposal seems to favour skate boarders over every other age group, with pathways and other facilities directed towards the skate bowl. Where are the play areas, and picnic spots for young families, or the peaceful shady benches for the older residents, or perhaps a space for dogs? Are skate boarders our only portion of the community to be favoured ?

I agree that a skate park is needed, but not in such a close proximity to a quiet neighbourhood. We need our peaceful park, just as the young ones need their skate park, for which there are suitable sites, which can be adapted.



Wollongbar 2477

70 - The General Manager ^{a submission}
Bally Shere Council . 30-10-15

Dear Sir,

Wollongbar

My husband & I are in favour of a skate park for teenagers, as they need an outlet to enjoy themselves, - But please! don't build a skate park at the corner of Plateau Dr., & Rifle Range Rd., as this area is unacceptable to the New Residents, & others living across the road, along Rifle Range Rd., & will ^{be} smacked bang in the middle of suburbia, as houses are being built around all sides of the proposed S. Park.

We bought a block of land in Teetona Place, not knowing of the proposal, & have built a lovely home for our older retirement years, to live in peace. The unrestricted hours will see skaters at the site all night, the noise of the clanging of their boots as they turn around at the top, is unacceptable. Young people with their mobile phones, can organise a gathering quickly, & exchange drugs & money, as happens at other skate parks.

2.
We will no longer feel safe living here in this area.

I ideally the S. Park should be built at the sporting Complex where all the amenities are, toilets etc.

Do this for Wollongbar please Councillors!

Or, take another look at the site at the basket ball Courts at Russelton Estate, as this is not a residential area, & half-way between Wollongbar & Alstonville.

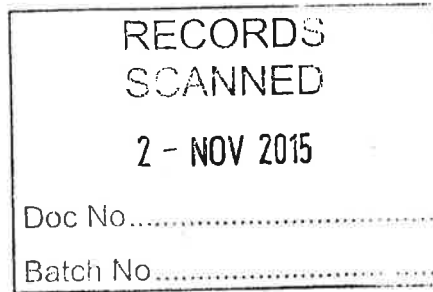
The bottleneck of traffic & children especially with parking nose in to the grounds, will be a dangerous situation - Rifle Range road is a very busy road, & most drivers don't obey the suggested speed signs.

We were travelling down Plateau Dr. recently, where we came across 3 boys cycling down the hill, at breakneck speed - No helmets, & hands outstretched. One cyclist in front & the two others following.

We are concerned residents!
Yours faithfully

29th October 2015

The General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
Ballina NSW 2478



Attention: Cheyne Willabrandts

Dear Sir,

Re: Draft Master Plan Plateau Drive/Rifle Range Road, Wollongbar.

My comments on this plan are as follows:

1. Since the reduction in the proposed area from 2ha to 1ha, the inclusion of a Skate Park would drastically take away from the area available for free recreation and general family activities.
2. Existing residential homes and proposed future housing will be within the 30 - 60 m of the Skate Park and will be receivers of excessive noise and light pollution.
3. A proposed Child Care Centre will also be 30 to 60m from the Skate Park and will be similarly in receipt of noise and light pollution. It will also have greatly reduced parklands nearby for small children to be able to enjoy, as it is situated near the Skate Park in the plan.
4. Due to the open access to the proposed Skate Park, (can be used at all hours as there is no "policing" of usage times), there will be a further increase in the noise and light pollution at possibly late hours.
5. In the report to Council by Greg Alderson and Associates, August 2014, it is stated on p.19 that "it is unlikely that sufficient distance attenuation would be available for a skate park at the proposed site." The measures suggested to deal with this problem, stated in this report, would be extremely expensive. It would seem better to use such monies to provide a park of greater benefit to the general public, rather than to just one Skate Park sector.
6. I cannot understand why the Wollongbar sporting grounds currently under construction were not seen as the obvious site for a Skate Park. Light would already be available and the problem of light and noise pollution would be dealt with under the same guidelines as those no doubt proposed for these sporting fields and activities. I strongly advocate for the Skate Park to be located within the precinct of this sporting complex and not in the restricted space available in the Mater Plan whose site is so close to current and proposed housing.

7. I object to the fact that local residents may well become the “passive surveillance” people for a Skate Park that they did not want in first place.

8. I would like to suggest that the whole area under discussion be used for free and open parkland for the use of families and all members of the public to enjoy passive recreation. There is currently very little open space in Wollongbar for this purpose and what there is has only basic beautification and landscaping and very basic play equipment.

9. Overall I strongly object to the current proposal for placement of a Skate Park within the Draft Master Plan, Plateau/Rifle Range Road.

10. I equally strongly request that the Ballina Shire Council allow for the entire 1ha area to be used for passive recreation, including more landscaping and infrastructure than shown in the current plan, including some large shade and other native trees, but not just the one large specimen shade tree as per the Mater Plan - a fig, which is extremely slow growing and situated close to the road. I would also like to see the inclusion of such infrastructure as tables, seats, toilets, drinking fountain, and play equipment that is varied and stimulating for young children.

I trust serious consideration will be given to these comments and that the proposed Skate Park will be deleted from this Mater Plan.

Yours sincerely,

15 February, 2016

Mr Paul Hickey
General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
Cherry Street
Ballina 2478

Dear Mr Hickey,

Submission on the proposed Park Plateau Drive, Wollongbar

As a mature aged resident and parent who has lived in Ballina shire for over 20 years I have used many parks and sporting facilities provided by Council. I have observed that people use different facilities at difference times in their life cycles. Sometimes people need sporting fields for active pursuits at other times they need low key parks for passive recreation.

I see this park as an idea place for passive recreation. However for the area to be fully utilized it would need picnic tables with shade, BBQs, a water fountain, tap and landscaping. The idea of an area with open grass area has appeal as children can run around, kick a ball and perhaps have a picnic on the grass. In other parks I have seen formed paths winding around the space and they have been used either to push strollers, or encourage children to ride their bikes or try out a scooter. Perhaps some simple play equipment could also be provided.

While the idea of establishing a skate park for older children and perhaps adults in the Alstonville/Wollongbar area is a good one I don't believe the Plateau Drive Park is the best location. Noise is always an issue with skate parks and this park is close to homes also hard concrete structures, which are so much fun for skaters, are often hazards for pre - school age children. Skating is definitely an active recreational pursuit and it seems that the trend to hold competitions is making is more like a formal sport.

Fortunately Wollongbar has an idea location for such a park at the new sports fields. These fields are away from homes so that noise is not an issue, it will have infrastructure like toilets, there will be parking and the skate park has the potential to provide alternative entertainment when one sibling is engaged in a formal sport at the fields. In recent years a skate park has been established at Bangalow near its sports fields and I believe it has been a success.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Wollongbar's new park. I hope to take my grandchildren there one day.

Yours sincerely

The General Manager

Ballina Shire Council

P.O. Box 450

Ballina 2478

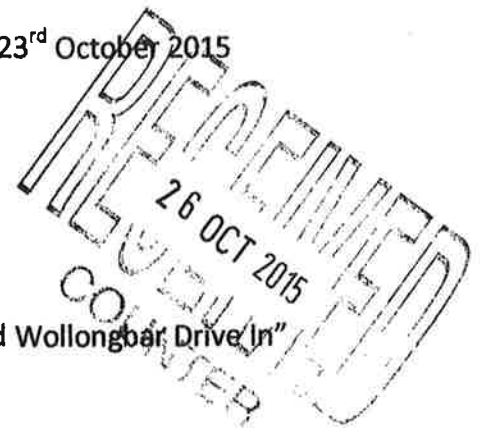
RECORDS
SCANNED

26 OCT 2015

Doc No

Batch No

23rd October 2015



Submission re Council's plan "to create a skate park on land at the old Wollongbar Drive In"

Dear Sir,

I am astounded to see that Council is again visiting the prospect of a skate park in the old Wollongbar Drive In grounds. Being continually asked to jump through hoops to show Council where it is making bad decisions is becoming very boring and time consuming. I don't ask myself "how can I convince Council of a bad decision", I ask myself "why does Council continually make these terrible decisions"?

Everyone locally that I have spoken to is astonished that anyone in their right mind would even consider a skate park slap bang in the middle of a residential estate, next to a child day care centre and adjacent to a busy road that youths just love skating down. Council is in the process of building a sporting complex, with easy access between Alstonville & Wollongbar. "Sporting complex" is the appropriate wording, and is where sporting facilities should all be grouped. Toilets, parking, and hopefully security, all servicing the one complex of playing fields, tennis courts etc.

If the skate park was built near Plateau Drive, and an errant skater was killed by a car going down the hill, as they presently do, would Council remove the skate park? If a skater was killed going down that tree lined tunnel known as Ramses Street (no footpaths or street lighting) would Council remove the skate park?

Why wait for a kid to be killed, when a skate park could be built in an appropriate place. Of course the other benefit is that residents in, and just off Plateau Drive, could live in the peace they thought they were getting when building there.

Skate park yes, but never, ever, ever in a residential area. Even in Ballina it was properly positioned.

Hopefully Council will see sense, and do the right thing. Fingers crossed!

Yours faithfully

Wollongbar 2477

The General Manager

Ballina Shire Council

Ballina 2478

RECORDS
SCANNED

26 OCT 2015

24th October 2015

Doc No
Batch No

RECEIVED
26 OCT 2015
COUNCIL

Submission re plan "to create a skate park on land at the corner of Plateau Drive and Rifle Range Rd"

Dear Sir,

I am totally opposed to the prospect of a skate park being built on the site of the old Wollongbar Drive In. When this proposal was previously voted down at a Council meeting, we the residents, thought that at last some common sense was being shown by Council. Imagine our surprise when this topic raised its ugly head again, via a revision motion. There is some talk locally that there is a hidden agenda, with a self serving interest. Hopefully this is not the case!

Along with many locals I attended a recent meeting at the Wollongbar shops, followed by another on site at Rifle Range Road. Despite questions regarding noise, hours of use, security, policing, bad behaviour, etc, staff on site had no answers. The conclusion was that Council was not listening, and were merely ticking the boxes!

If Council is not in the least interested in local opinion, then maybe they should consider the factor of safety. Whilst driving up Plateau Drive to attend this meeting, I had to negotiate a group of skaters using the road as their playground. I had to swerve violently to avoid hitting them, and they all thought it a big joke. This is not the only time I have seen this hill being used in this manner, and I am advised by other locals that they too have had similar encounters. Bringing young skaters together right next to what they consider an adrenalin charged ride down the hill, is inviting disaster. Ultimately there will be a death, & Councillors will have to live with this on their conscience!

I would point out that I, and most people I have spoken to, do not oppose a skate park being built, but common sense should dictate that there are far better sites for it. Local skating youth are already using the old basketball park in Russellton Industrial Estate. This could be upgraded, and the kids would have easy access to it as it is central to both Alstonville & Wollongbar Alternatively, the new Sporting Complex of Ovals being built would be the perfect site, and one wonders why this has been dismissed as another obvious site. Keeping all sporting activities together utilises toilets & parking, thus saving duplication costs to a minimum. It too will be central to both villages!

I again ask, why would any sane person want to put a skate park right in the middle of a residential area? Even the Ballina Skate Park is far enough away from residences to not create a nuisance. Maybe this one was thought through properly. The old Drive In would be far better developed as an open grassed area for quiet recreation by rate paying residents, along the lines of Kadina Park in Lismore. Lismore Council got it right, why can't Ballina?

Hoping common sense prevails. Public consultation has been sadly lacking!

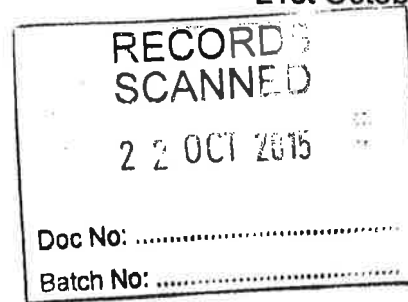
Yours faithfully

Phone

Wollongbar 2477

21st October 2015.

Mr Hickey, General Manager,
Ballina Shire Council,
PO Box 450,
Ballina 2478



Dear Mr Hickey,

Draft Master Plan: Corner Plateau Drive and Rifle Range Rd. Wollongbar.

My home is situated on _____ which, I
is quite prominent.

During the 20 years plus I have lived here, incidents have regularly occurred on my property, both in front of, and behind, my home.

Whilst these incidents have not harmed me, they have caused me some concern. Some examples are, finding the fruit stripped off my citrus trees and thrown around the back yard, having chairs taken from my front patio, and having taps turned on and left running - and of course, stones on the roof, etc.

Whilst my back yard is fully fenced, that has not stopped people accessing it.

I have read of the plan to install a skate park just along the road from where I live. This skating area would, obviously, attract many young people, as it is designed to. However, young people at times exhibit immature behaviour, and this is my concern, as I am elderly, and live alone.

As far as I can tell, there is nothing to indicate that young people's behaviour is getting any better, particularly when in groups, and when alcohol is involved - and this is possible.

I would wish to see this space include attractive landscaping, with seating and pathways, so that it can be a community meeting place, where people can stop and chat. If a skating area is included, it should be a small space, so that youths will not be attracted to it, but families will be.

Yours sincerely,

From:
Sent: Friday, 16 October 2015 10:10 AM
Subject: Skate board park

Dear Councillors,

I attended the open gathering at the Wollongbar site last Saturday morning and would like to make the following observations and points;

- * I was disappointed that I was not able to share my opinions with any councillors, even though the council employees were quite open to a discussion. Sadly these people don't make the decisions.
- * The crowd was made up of mostly young people and their parents in support of a park. Most do not live close by. Most I teach at Alstonville High School and the conversations I have had the students they don't really care where it is, as long as they get one.
- * Many of the students live in Alstonville and would like something closer to where they live. The original idea of the old Basketball court in the Industrial Estate, or the Tennis Courts site, must still be a favourable alternative due to its convenience between the two villages, and the existing infrastructure around it.
- * Council need to seriously take into account the views of the local residents who will be impacted 24/7 if the skateboard park is located on the corner of Plateau and Rifle Range roads. A quick internet search will reveal issues for other councils over anti-social behaviour for residents who have been impacted by the siting of skateboard parks within 100 metres of homes. The local residents don't want a skateboard park there.
- * Council have sold land to people in the immediate area only to now propose to affect their amenity by building this park within 50 metres of their land. These people would have their values adversely affected, according to local real estate agents views.
- * The safety of users would surely be compromised by the location close to the two roads and the roundabout, as well as parking for visiting families and users.

This area should just be a green area of open space for all families and community members to use, not just for a niche group who are known to have an element who do not respect the people close by or the facilities that they are offered.

I hope that council will consider the views of the local residents who do not want a skateboard park on this site, over the views of others who don't live there. There are other sites with a lower impact on the community.

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain privileged information or confidential information or both. If you are not the intended recipient please delete it and notify the sender.

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From:

Sent:

Wednesday, 14 October 2015 12:43 PM

Subject:

Wollongbar Proposed Skate Prk

Attending the Wollongbar information display on the proposed Wollongbar Skate Prk and putting forward our submissions as ballina shire rate payers we have many questions that not only us but many who attended require answers to

The representative for the council on site Saturday was asked questions that he was not able to answer .

Many concerned residents of this community are asking questions such as

What devaluation of our homes will this skate park impact of resale value

Will this skate park be manned 24 hrs a day by CCTV and security lighting

The proposal is at the intersection of two of the busiest roads in Wollongbar

A child care center is proposed to be built in the vicinity of a skate park this is just unacceptably not only for noise but also in regards to children being subjected to perhaps unruly behaviors

There are 2 other places this skate park could be developed and they are at the new sporting field which makes sense or the already existing basketball park in the industrial estate.

How do skaters get to skate parks? They usually skate to them and there is already a pathway to the basketball park in the industrial estate keeping them safe with an underpass and plenty of parking away from residential homes.

Will there be more police to patrol this area due to the park being opened 24hrs inviting perhaps unwanted noise both from vehicles coming to and from the area and people congregating at the park at all hours leaving residents of the community feeling unsafe and having to call our police to deal with this.

This skate park is definitely too close to residential homes .

We hear how wonderful the Ballina skate park is and we agree. Why? Because it is not near residential housing but a great asset for the Ballina community. Let's do the same for the Wollongbar community but not at this site A NO BRAINER

Council need to listen to the rate payers of this community.

No talk of a Community Center were the community could all benefit like the Alstonville Community that could accommodate many activities.

Regards

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.

From:
Sent: Friday, 9 October 2015 11:12 PM
Subject: I support wollongbar Skate Park

Dear Councillors,

As a mum to three skateboarder/scooter/BMX riders, and a home owner in the wollongbar park estate, I really want the skate park on the corner of Plateau Dr and Riffle Range Rd in Wollongbar to go ahead. The skate park will be a great place to ride as well as somewhere safe to meet with friends, Rather than having a lot of kids riding around the estate on roads and in danger. In fact I chose to purchase land in the wollongbar land release area as I knew that the site was an option for the skate park site. With the land subsidy scheme in the area a majority of owners are young families with children ranging from toddlers to teens and it is crucial that they have provisions for recreation to encourage positive activity. Skateboard/scooters/bmx is a part of the culture of children of all ages and even parents who are big kids at heart. Please listen to the future of wollongbar and show them that they are important and can be heard by there local council and I strongly support the proposed development of the Wollongbar skate park. This along with the recreation facilities at Lyle park will encourage our children to get out of the house and get active in the community. I would also love to see some fitness equipment incorporated into the park and open area and even a dog exercise area as this has become a Hub for locals who walk, jog, and exercise and socialise their dogs regularly. There is enough open space planned for the rugby grounds so to keep the children safe please allow enough space and budget to provide both a street skate section as well as some more challenging ramps, bowls, grinding rails, spines etc for the bigger kids. If it is too small they will all be on top of each other and it won't be as safe.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

Sent from my iPhone

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