



MEDIA RELEASE

Shire of Esperance

PO Box 507 Esperance WA 6450

T: (08) 9071 0666 F: (08) 9071 0600

E: shire@esperance.wa.gov.au

www.esperance.wa.gov.au

6 February 2017

REMOVAL OF THE OLD SKATE PARK

Council confirmed its decision to remove the old skate park.

The contract to undertake the removal work was awarded in December 2016. A delay in the work commencing was at the request of the Esperance Miniature Railway to ensure it did not disrupt summer holiday activities. With the school holidays over, the work was due to start at 9am this morning. A further request to retain and maintain the park, which necessitated a Special Council Meeting today, was based on the old park still being used. Council decided to go ahead with the removal basing its decision on the current condition of the park, future maintenance costs and the duplication of facilities available at the new skate park

At the meeting Council resolved to create a park that will be designed to accommodate younger inexperienced skaters who are learning the basics. The design of the park, and any potential elements to be included, has not been decided upon at this early stage. The idea is to work with the community (led by the Ralph Bower Adventureland Park Working Group) to provide an area where they can learn to skate proficiently, find their balance and learn a few 'road rules'.

Shire President Victoria Brown said "It would seem we have built a skate park that is so successful that we have encouraged more people to take up the activity of skating. We have had a call for an area that is built more for the inexperienced kids and we will now work on making this to happen."

"It is fantastic seeing the amount of use the new skate park currently receives and while we understand the desire by some to retain the old skate park the practicalities and costs associated with this is not based on good management principles. There are compliance issues with the old park which was why we built a new skate park. Any future expenditure should be centred on improving the new facilities to make sure we capitalise on providing the best possible area for age groups, making it a great place for kids and families to hang out."

Some of the ideas that are being investigated include two lane traffic, miniature road signs, small obstacles and rises. Shire Officers will be researching how best to match user needs in liaison with the Ralph Bower Adventureland Park Working Group.

Ends

MEDIA CONTACT:

Priscilla Davies (08) 9071 0679

Examples of some 'Pit Stop' paths are provided below, these are some of the ideas that could be discussed. These images are not owned by the Shire, they are to provide a visual of the types of elements that can be included.

