

# ONSLOW SKATE SPACE

DRAFT SITE SELECTION & CONSULTATION REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 2014 - REVISION 01

PREPARED BY CONVIC  
FOR THE SHIRE OF ASHBURTON

**CONVIC**



# CONTENTS

<b>PROJECT BACKGROUND</b>	<b>05</b>
Introduction	06
Skate Context	07
<b>SITE APPRAISAL</b>	<b>09</b>
Selecting the Right Site	10
Site Assessment Criteria	11
Suggested Sites	14
Site Appraisal Matrix	15
Site 1	16
Site 2	18
Site 3	20
Preferred Site	22
<b>CONSULTATION</b>	<b>25</b>
The Consultation Process	26
Develop User Profiles	30
Gathering Ideas	33
Link and Resolve Ideas	36
Focus the Theme	38
<b>DESIGN VISION</b>	<b>41</b>
Next Phase	45
<b>GLOSARY</b>	<b>46</b>



**PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK**

# PROJECT BACKGROUND



# PROJECT BACKGROUND

## INTRODUCTION

The Onslow Skate Space is being designed as a unique, iconic and site responsive multi-purpose, multi-generational facility that aims to complement the existing uses and facilities of the Onslow recreational precinct. This facility will be the central social hub for the youth and the broader community of Onslow.

In August of 2014, CONVIC were engaged by the Shire of Ashburton to undertake a site appraisal of possible site locations within the Onslow Masterplan. This was followed by the pre-design community consultation phase for the design project.

The following report outlines the site selection process and criteria considered to form a successful youth space. It also summarises the results and comments of the community consultation, makes recommendations on the typology of the facility and creates a design vision for the Onslow Skate Space. This strategic approach will define an informed conceptual response and design for the current community demand and future community needs.



Youth facility life-cycle diagram

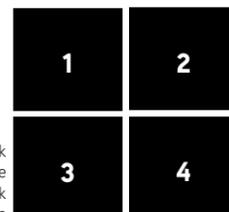
# PROJECT BACKGROUND

## UNDERSTANDING SKATE CONTEXT

Currently there is no existing skate facility within the Onslow recreational precinct with many youth using backyards, footpaths and car parks to ride. The Pilbara Region is developing a good network of skating and BMX facilities however due to the nature of development in this region, these are isolated with large distances / travel time between facilities. There are four skate and BMX facilities within 6.5 hours drive of Onslow. These parks include:

- Karratha Skate Park - 311km (3.15 hours) This has a traditional style large concrete base with hips, flat banks and street features with open flow across large areas of concrete.
- Roebourne Skatescape - 335km (3.25 hours) The park has a loop snake run structure for flow through moguls and transition features with a focus on beginner to intermediate users
- Exmouth Skate Park - 404km (5.33 hours) This park has a combination of street and transition with multiple sculptural shade structures to cater for high temperatures through the day
- Tom Price Skate Park - 410km (6.30 hours) This facility is set within existing trees which provide large amounts of shade and give a park like feel to the space. This is a combination of Street and Transition elements arranged in a square track formation including: ledges, banks, rails, half pipe, moguls and quarter pipes. It is popular within the Tom Price community with many frequent users including BMX, Scooters and Skateboarders.

On the whole, these facilities are largely focussed on 'skate' with less importance given to an all inclusive 'Youth Facility' approach. The Onslow Skate Space specifically will provide great value to the existing recreation precinct and compliment the palette of current Onslow facilities and community needs.



1. Karratha Skate Park  
 2. Tom Price  
 3. Exmouth Skate Park  
 4. Roebourne Skatescape

**PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK**



# SITE ASSESSMENT

## SELECTING THE APPROPRIATE SITE

The location of the Skate Space is critical in ensuring the future success of this important community asset. In particular the site should have the capability to:

- Create a centralised social hub for young people.
- Allow users of different ages to interact with each other.
- Allow users of different abilities to learn from each other.
- Create strong links with other existing community facilities and amenities.

It has been identified that the Skate Space must cater for all ages, abilities and types of action sports including active, passive and social activities. As Onslow currently does not have a Skate Space or a strong skate community the design of the park should have a focus on the beginner to intermediate level ability to allow users to develop their skill set. However, the facility also needs to provide for skill progression in features to challenge and keep users interested. This shall be defined by providing areas for beginners to safely learn and progress, as well as having areas for the more experienced to use in a safe and unencumbered space.

The Onslow Skate Space site presents an opportunity for the Shire of Ashburton to develop the precinct and create a dynamic and activated community hub, offering recreational and social opportunities for all members of the community, from day to day use to community centred activities and events. The following section outlines the key criteria used to assess suggested sites, and then recommends a preferred site.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 3 |   |
1. Beadon Creek Wharf
  2. Termite Mounds
  4. Salt Conveyor Belt



**SITE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA****1. PHYSICAL SITE CONDITIONS & TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

This first broad criterion is based on the physicality of the various sites and whether they can accommodate a facility of the required scale and type required by the Shire. It also considers technical implications such as drainage and soil conditions. Questions asked at each site include;

- Is the proposed site able to cater for the various different applicable facility types defined previously? (ie: large enough to cater for events if we are looking for a regional scale park)
- Is the proposed site free of existing land use implications, covenants, easements, service access requirements and/or underground/overhead power lines, water and gas?
- What are the implications of geotechnical conditions, ground water, drainage?
- What are the physical terrain implications of the site?

**2. ACCESS/TRANSPORT**

This second criterion looks at how easily accessible the site is for users, parents and those viewing the skate park or events. Questions asked of each site on this criterion include;

- Are there pedestrian/footpath connections from transport nodes to the proposed site?
- Is there a safe drop off area or adequate car parking if applicable?

Note: Public transport is currently not applicable to the Onslow Skate Space

**3. NATURAL SURVEILLANCE, SECURITY AND SAFETY**

As the consideration is to create a public sporting facility with the main users being below the age of 18 it is crucial to ensure the facility is visually open and safe and easily accessed in the case of an emergency. Questions asked for this criterion include;

- Is the site visually prominent with good natural and passive surveillance for safety and for the promotion of the facility and skate activity?
- Is the site a short distance from police response calls and does it provide ease of police access on scheduled routes?
- Can the site provide adequate emergency vehicle access (fire and ambulance?)

- Can vehicular access be restricted at the proposed site to prevent skating at night by car light if applicable?
- Can the proposed site provide safe entry to and from the site and safe setbacks from busy roads and intersections?

**4. PROXIMITY TO AMENITIES (WATER, TOILETS, SHADE, FOOD & DRINK)**

An active public sporting facility such as a skate park should have appropriate ancillary amenities. This includes shade for viewing and resting, drink fountains and nearby toilets given users can spend many hours using a skate park in a single session.

Questions therefore asked for this criterion are;

- Are associated amenities such as public telephone, toilets, water, shelter and shade existing and available or cost effective to install at the site?
- Is the site close to vendors selling food and drink and is there potential for seasonal, peak time and/or event day food and drink outlets?

**5. IMPACT ON EXISTING FACILITIES, ADJOINING USES AND USERS**

To assess the suitability of a site, one of the main considerations is what impact will a new facility have on the existing users and use of the space. This can be a contentious community issue and so the following questions have been asked for this criterion;

- Does the site facilitate minimal loss of green space?
- Does the site facilitate minimal impact on ecological systems eg. Wetlands, foreshore and bush land?
- Does the site facilitate minimal loss of mature or significant trees?
- Does the site facilitate minimal impact on pedestrian or road network and access including existing desire lines?
- Will the location of a skate facility on the site substantially displace existing recreational or other site users?
- Are there any existing heritage items or indigenous people's claims for land title or cultural significance at the site?
- Is there a history of 'anti-social' activity of behaviour at the site?

# SITE ASSESSMENT

## 6. DISTANCE FROM HOUSING & INCOMPATIBLE LAND USE

Another major consideration for any new public sporting facility is the potential impact of noise and light to nearby housing. It is important that the new skate facility is located to minimise impact to surrounding residential areas. We have undertaken acoustic assessments of a number of existing skate parks to ascertain an appropriate distance from residential areas and as a guide 50m is considered an acceptable distance for a purpose built skate park. Please note that this is subject to a more detailed acoustic assessment as each location has different factors such as surrounding noise, landform, prevailing winds etc. This is also only for facilities and not incidental skate moments which, due to their scale and level of potential use, are not considered major creators of noise or loss of amenity.

Questions therefore include;

- Is the site location an adequate distance (50m) from residential dwellings and incompatible land uses to avoid potential noise and light intrusions?
- Has the site the capacity to place a skate park in a location to maximise noise attenuation (eg: sunk into the ground)

## 7. EVENT SPACE OPPORTUNITIES

With centrally located facilities presenting the opportunity to become a major community activity node, not just for skating/BMX and scooter users but also community events, clinics and competitions; sites must be assessed for their suitability to play a broader role. Questions therefore include;

- Is the proposed site adjacent to like/complimentary activities to create a greater recreational experience?
- Does the site have the ability to cater for larger crowds and temporary infrastructure during peak use and events?

## 8. MAINTENANCE

Maintenance is important to ensure the park can be cleaned easily and regularly. Questions therefore asked for this criterion are;

- How readily accessible is the site to regular cleaning for existing council cleaning and maintenance team?

## 9. CONTEXT & AMENITY

The criteria is most applicable to the socialisation that occurs at skate parks and the importance of providing facilities that are where young people want to be and provide important amenity (sun protection, wind etc...)

The following questions will be asked for each of the sites regarding context and amenity;

- Is the site location where young people want to be or adjacent to where they currently congregate?
- Is the site in close proximity to existing shopping centres, sports or recreation facilities or interested schools?
- Is the site within or adjacent to a major community hub or central area?

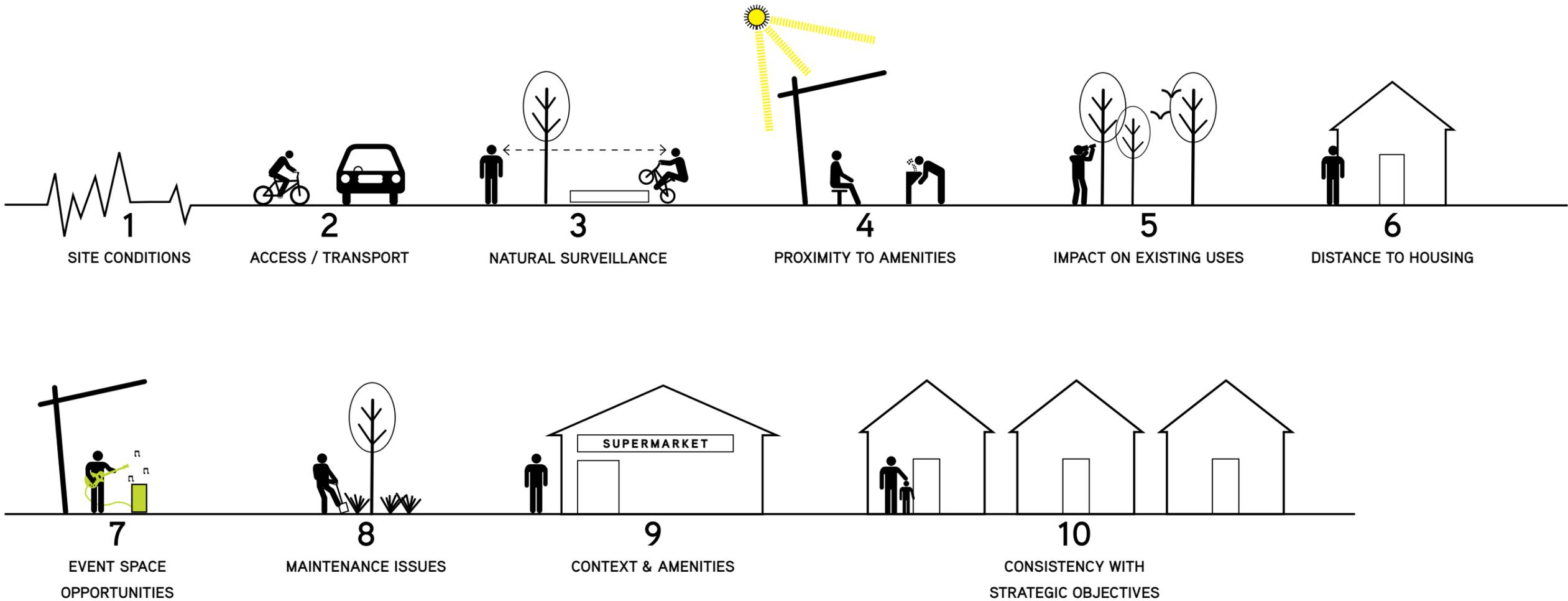
## 10. CONSISTENCY WITH STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Sites for consideration need to conform to local planning schemes, embody strategic planning and reflect the current land use zones. Therefore for this criterion the following questions needs to be asked;

- Is the location consistent with the strategic land use, masterplanning, planning schemes and zoning?

# SITE ASSESSMENT

**FACTORS IN LOCATING A YOUTH FACILITY**



# SITE ASSESSMENT



## SUGGESTED SITES

As part of the consultation and design process, a site investigation was carried out and three locations were identified as having potential to accommodate a new facility:

### SITE 1

Adjacent to the existing basketball courts on the corner of Cameron Ave and Third Ave.

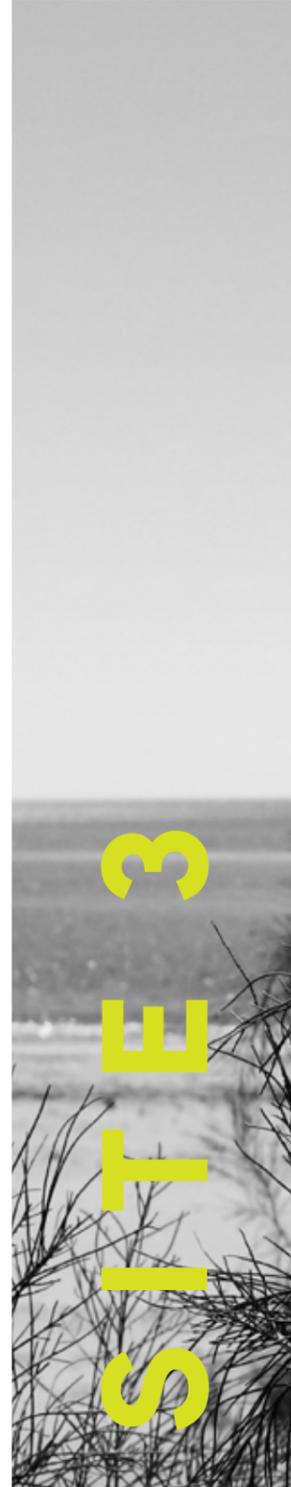
### SITE 2

Adjacent to the existing oval, behind the lawn bowls on Paterson Place.

### SITE 3

Adjacent to the Council Business House on Second Ave.

# SITE ASSESSMENT



CONSIDERATION/CRITERIA	Importance of Criteria (5 highest, 1 lowest)	Assessment of criteria (2 fully meets, 1 partially meets, 0 does not meet)			WEIGHTING MULTIPLIED BY ASSESSMENT		
		SITE 1	SITE 2	SITE 3	SITE 1	SITE 2	SITE 3
<b>1. Physical site conditions &amp; technical considerations</b>							
Is the proposed site capable to cater for the various different applicable skatepark types defined previously? (ie: large enough to cater for events if we are looking for a regional scale park)	5	1	2	2	5	10	10
Is the proposed site free of existing land use implications, covenants, easements, service access requirements and/or underground/overhead powerlines, water and gas?	3	1	2	2	3	6	6
What are the implications of geo tech conditions, ground water, drainage?	3	2	2	2	6	6	6
<b>2. Access/transport</b>							
Is there access to public transport at the proposed site?	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Are there pedestrian/footpath connections to the proposed site?	4	1	2	1	4	8	4
Is there a safe drop off area or adequate car parking if applicable?	4	1	2	1	4	8	4
<b>3. Natural surveillance, security and safety</b>							
Is the site visually prominent with good public surveillance for safety and for the promotion of the facility and skate activity?	5	2	2	1	10	10	5
Is the site a short distance from police response calls and does it provide ease of police access on scheduled routes?	3	2	2	2	6	6	6
Can the site provide adequate emergency vehicle access (fire and ambulance)?	4	2	2	2	8	8	8
Can vehicular access be restricted at the proposed site to prevent skating at night by car light if applicable?	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Can the proposed site provide safe entry to and from the site and safe setbacks from busy roads and intersections	3	1	2	2	3	6	6
<b>4. Proximity to amenities (water, toilets, Shade, food &amp; drink)</b>							
Are associated amenities such as public telephone, toilets, water, shelter and shade existing and available or cost effective to install at the site?	5	2	2	1	10	10	5
Is the site close to shops selling food and drink and is there potential for seasonal, peak time and/or event day food and drink outlets?	3	1	1	1	3	3	3
<b>5. Impact on existing facilities, adjoining uses and users</b>							
Can the site facilitate minimal loss of green space?	2	2	2	2	4	4	4
Can the site facilitate minimal impact on existing ecological systems eg. wetlands, foreshore and bushland	3	2	2	2	6	6	6
Can the site facilitate minimal loss of significant trees	3	2	2	2	6	6	6
Can the site facilitate minimal impact on pedestrian or road network and access including existing desire lines?	2	1	2	2	2	4	4
Will the location of a skate facility on the site not substantially displace existing recreational or other site users?	2	2	2	2	4	4	4
Are there any existing heritage items or indigenous people's claims for land title / cultural significance at the site?	3	2	2	2	6	6	6
Is there a history of 'anti-social' activity of behaviour at the site?	4	0	1	2	0	4	8
<b>6. Distance from housing &amp; incompatible land use</b>							
Is the site location an adequate distance (50m) from residential dwellings and incompatible land uses to avoid potential noise and light intrusions?	5	1	1	2	5	5	10
Has the site the capacity to place a skatepark in a location to maximise noise attenuation (eg: sunk into the ground)	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
<b>7. Event space opportunities (multiplicity of use)</b>							
Is the proposed site adjacent to other like/complimentary activities to create a greater recreational experience	4	2	2	1	8	8	4
Does the site have the ability to cater for larger crowds and temporary infrastructure during peak use and events?	4	1	2	2	4	8	8
<b>8. Maintenance issues</b>							
How readily accessible is the site to regular cleaning for existing council cleaning and maintenance teams.	4	2	2	2	8	8	8
<b>9. Context &amp; Amenity</b>							
Is the site location where young people want to be or adjacent to where they currently congregate?	5	2	2	1	10	10	5
Is the site in close proximity to existing shopping centres, sports or recreation facilities or interested schools?	4	2	2	1	8	8	4
Is the site within or adjacent to a major community hub or central area?	4	2	2	1	8	8	4
<b>10. Consistency with Strategic Objectives</b>							
Is the location consistent with the strategic land use, masterplanning, planning scheme and zoning.	4	2	2	2	8	8	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>TOTAL PERCENTAGE</b>		72%	86%	78%	<b>73%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>76%</b>

# SITE ASSESSMENT



1. Site 1 Adjacent to the existing basketball courts on the Corner of Cameron Ave and Third Ave



2. Looking south east to existing vegetation and overland flow path



3. Looking west to existing basketball courts and lighting (council future planning to demolish basketball courts and relocate)



4. Looking north east over Cameron ave towards water park



5. Community art on adjacent toilet block to the west

# SITE ASSESSMENT

## SITE 1

### SITE DESCRIPTION:

- Located on the site of the existing basketball courts (to be demolished and relocated) on the southern corner of Cameron Ave and Third Ave intersection.
- Flat terrain with topography on an even grade up towards the southern extent of the site.
- Existing toilet block located adjacent to the site with the football oval, car park, water park and existing play area across Cameron Ave. A caravan waste disposal site exists in this area.
- To the south east the terrain falls away into an overland flow path zone with drainage head walls / outlet.
- There are existing basketball lights and a single tree that provides little shade due to its juvenile age and form.

### OPPORTUNITIES:

- The site is in close proximity to other similar recreational spaces such as the water park, the football oval, covered play area, lawn bowls and tennis courts allowing the proposed facility to key into established amenities strengthening the Onslow recreational precinct. It is also a manageable walking distance from the town main street and shops.
- There are existing services and amenities available including car parking on the other side of Cameron Ave, footpath access, toilet block and lighting. Although this lighting does not meet with current industry standard and electrical conduits would have to be replaced to work with new lighting setout.
- There is an existing drainage head wall located adjacent to the site in the overland flow path zone that could potentially be utilized for site drainage.

### CONSTRAINTS:

- The site has existing community use with the basketball courts currently occupying the majority of the southern extent of the site. This is programmed to be demolished and relocated in approximately 12 months. This may potentially cause problems with overlapping programs, as council are unlikely to demolish the existing facility until a replacement has been constructed.
- The space is relatively small and restricted, confined by its surrounding existing land use with Cameron Ave and Third Ave bordering the north and eastern sides and the overland flow path to the east, this limits the possible expansion and various opportunities of community engagement / youth activation.
- There is no shade with no existing trees or shelter. The provision of adequate shade structures may have major cost implications for the project. It will take time to establish significant shade trees as a natural green retreat.
- The site is flanked on two sides by roads with no pedestrian footpath on Cameron Ave or existing pedestrian crossings, this presents possible safety hazards in regards to access.
- The site is located within 50m from residential dwellings to the east and could possibly cause concern for local residents with respect to noise and light perceived intrusion.

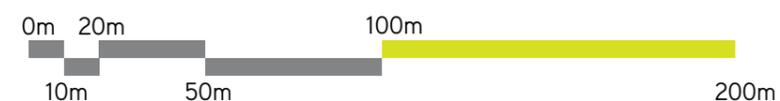
### RATING OVERVIEW:

Of the three sites assessed, the current basketball site received the lowest score at **73%**, making it the most unsuitable for the new Youth Space.

The site rated highly in terms of its multiplicity of use, with many complimentary activities to create a greater recreational experience. It provides a central location, access for both users and services and the low impact on existing facilities. The assessment process identified that the site was potentially appropriate for a new skate facility. Although, due to existing land use, lack of shade amenity and confined site borders it is not recommended to be the prime location for a skate facility.



1:2000 @ A3



# SITE ASSESSMENT



1. Site 2 Adjacent to the existing oval, behind lawn bowls on Paterson Place



2. Looking west along Paterson Place



3. Looking east at existing Eucalyptus Ghost Trees



4. Looking east towards covered play area and sports club



5. Looking north towards Onslow primary school. Footpath linking through to Third Ave

# SITE ASSESSMENT

## SITE 2

### SITE DESCRIPTION:

- Located adjacent to the football oval, under 6 large Eucalyptus trees. It has access from Patterson Place.
- Relatively flat terrain with topography on an even grade towards the north eastern extent of the site.
- Informal north-south pathway exists from Onslow Primary School with a formalised pedestrian footpath linking through to Third Ave and along Paterson Place.

### OPPORTUNITIES:

- The site provides adequate unrestricted space for a regional facility that can cater for community events and various opportunities of community engagement.
- The existing trees provide much needed shade and a green refuge.
- The site is in close proximity to other similar recreational spaces such as the water park, the football oval, covered play area, lawn bowls, Onslow Primary School and tennis courts allowing the proposed facility to key into associated amenities strengthening the Onslow recreational precinct. It is also a manageable walking distance from the town main street and shops.
- High passive and natural surveillance of the site is apparent with residential dwellings to the south west and high pedestrian traffic and usage of facilities to the east.
- There is adequate and easy access including car parking and footpath access from multiple directions.
- There are lighting conduits and water mains services located nearby allowing for possible future connection.
- The site has future land use proposed to the north on McRae Place in the form of a swimming complex which would form complimentary use to a Youth Space.

### CONSTRAINTS:

- The site is located nearby residential dwellings to the south on Patterson Place and could possibly raise concern with potential noise and light intrusion, although there is capability to maintain the 50m offset from dwellings. (We have undertaken acoustic assessments of a number of existing skate parks to ascertain an appropriate distance from residential areas and as a guide 50m is considered an acceptable distance for a purpose built skate park).
- The current condition of the water tanks and fencing is deteriorated and would require refurbishment due to poor aesthetic for a Youth facility and public space with possible safety concerns with respect to access and climbing.

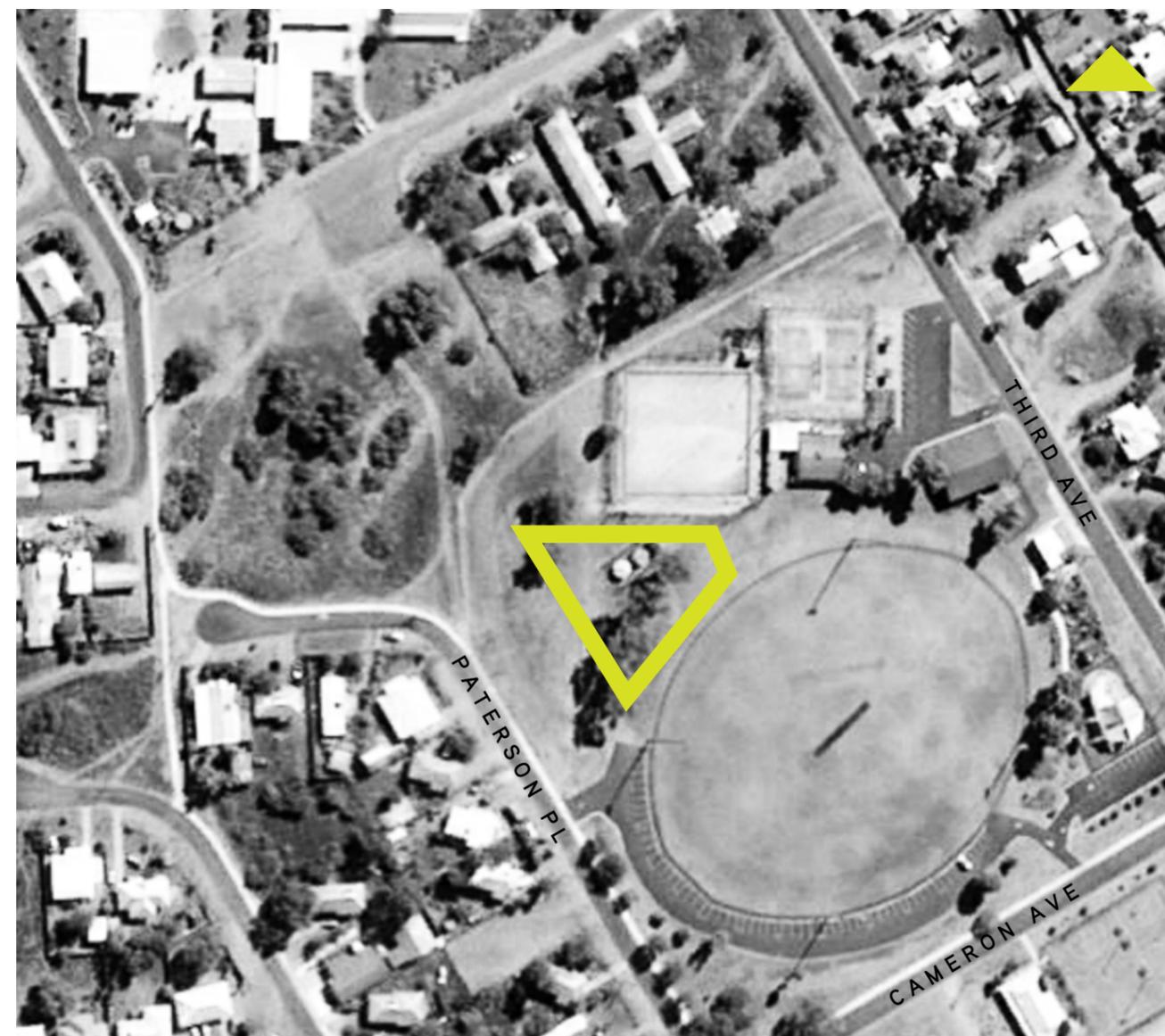
### RATING OVERVIEW:

Of the three sites assessed, the site on Patterson Place was ranked highest as the most suitable space for the Onslow Skate Space at **87%**.

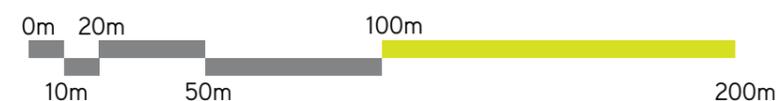
Locating the Youth Space in this area affords the park to key into the existing central recreational precinct. This further defines the 'central green area' within the master plan; culminating in a passive / active recreation hub within the centre of Onslow Town.

The site has more than adequate area for a District Level Facility with existing supporting amenities and natural shade provided by existing trees. It already has a natural thoroughfare flow of people going to and from the Onslow primary school, Football oval and basketball courts. This minimises the potential of antisocial behaviour by capturing the volume of traffic and providing the opportunity for encouraged use and activation into a productive healthy environment in a visually prominent site.

The site presents the greatest opportunity, of the three, to host events and workshops with significant overflow area and adjacent car parking. With the landscape framework in mind the space represents the most suitable location for the new Onslow Skate Space. The new Skate Space will further amplify the Onslow Community and celebrate the local youth culture, in an all inclusive setting.



1:2000 @ A3



# SITE ASSESSMENT



1. Site 3 Adjacent to the council business house at the intersection of McGrath Road and Second Ave



2. Looking north towards the back of site and Onslow front beach behind hedgerow



3. Looking east along second ave, the entry road into Onslow town



4. Looking south across site up McGrath Street with the Onslow Hospital to the left



5. Looking north towards Onslow Front Beach

# SITE ASSESSMENT

## SITE 3

### SITE DESCRIPTION:

- Located on Second Ave adjacent to the existing Council Business House, opposite the Onslow Hospital. It has access to Onslow front beach.
- Flat sandy terrain with topography on an even grade up towards the northern extent of the site towards Onslow Front Beach.
- Site is currently a vacant block with no current strategic land use planned.

### OPPORTUNITIES:

- As the site lies on the main entry road into Onslow, there is an opportunity to develop an iconic entry statement through the design of the Youth Space.
- Easy access to the picturesque Onslow front beach through the existing hedgerow.
- Close proximity to the Onslow Hospital.
- There is an opportunity to develop the Onslow masterplan further and create a waterfront esplanade connection to the existing First Ave waterfront treatment, that has a boat ramp, maintained grass areas, shelters, seating, swimming and BBQ areas.
- It is a vacant lot that is not in close vicinity to residential dwellings, avoiding associated perceived concerns with disturbance to existing residents.
- It is close to the Bindi Bindi Community also located on Second Ave, which has a large number of youth within the community.
- The space ties into future residential development plans to the south east with expected population growth of approximately 3000 people to the Onslow community.
- The site provides adequate unrestricted space for a regional facility that can cater for community events and various opportunities of community engagement.

### CONSTRAINTS:

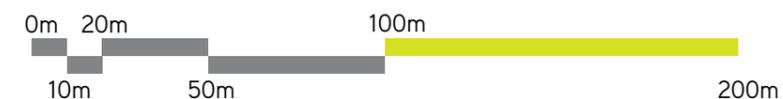
- There is minimal high level shade with no existing trees or shelter. This may have cost implications with regard to providing shade structures. It will take time to establish significant shade trees as a green retreat.
- It is not in the same proximity to existing recreational facilities as the other sites although it is only a 2 minute walk to the football oval / current basketball courts and approximately 5 minutes to the Onslow town centre and shops.
- There are possible concerns with safety, being located on the main road into town although there is enough space for an adequate offset from the road and provision of safe access and circulation.
- There are council concerns around the possibility of being unable to remove hedgerow trees for easy access to tie into the Onslow front beach.
- Although it is situated on a main street the site has less passive and active surveillance from surrounding land use than other site options.

### RATING OVERVIEW:

Of the three sites assessed, the Second Ave site ranked second in its suitability for a new skate space, or **76%**. The site rated highly in terms of its abundance of space for multiple uses with many event space opportunities. It has a low impact on existing land use and facilities. Its location next to Onslow front beach on the main road into town presents exciting opportunities for an entry statement and keying into the picturesque waterfront. This site is a close second to the preferred site on Paterson Place and should be considered as the alternative site location if Paterson Place is not endorsed by council and community.



1:2000 @ A3



PREFERRED

# SITE



**PREFERRED SITE RECOMMENDATION**

The evolving definition of skate parks today no longer restricts facilities to develop as an out of sight concrete park with little community interaction. Rather, a centrally located facility that allows easy site access, encouraging participation from the general community is essential in creating a well used and maintained facility. Community acceptance and the increase of users, both skate and recreational, increases the opportunity for passive and natural surveillance and the minimisation of anti-social behaviour.

The site on Paterson Place presents such an opportunity for the Shire of Ashburton to develop a Skate Space in the heart of the community that lifts the public profile of youth and is close to the town centre and existing amenities. The site offers a unique design opportunity to tie into the existing recreational precinct, and create a dynamic and activated central community hub, that can offer recreational and social experiences for all members of the community, from day to day usage to community events.

Based on the outcomes of the site assessment process and the six community consultations, Convic recommends the Paterson Place site as the most appropriate and preferred location for the new Onslow Skate Space.



Fremantle Youth Plaza, CONVIC.



## TODAY

- WHO WE ARE
- PROJECT BACKGROUND
- PROJECT EXAMPLES
- DESIGN WORKSHOPS



lotterywest  
supported  
**Active Education**



# THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

## THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The consultation process is an integral component of the development of a youth precinct and skate space. In order to ensure the success and longevity of these key community assets it is essential to engage with the future users of the space. Through a combination of user group workshops, community meetings, surveys and forums the consultation process aims to empower youth and their communities to take stewardship and pride in their public spaces.

There are 2 key stages in the consultation process to ensure the client, community, users and stakeholders are all engaged. This will ensure the evolution of a highly resolved strategy or design outcome that is unique to the community it is being developed for. The 2 stages are:

### STAGE 1:

Information gathering of ideas, issues, requirements etc. To provide direction for the face to face community workshops and understand the demographic and demand in the community via the analysis of data.

### STAGE 2:

Community workshops that utilise the key outcomes of the information gathering stage and collaboratively work with the community to further explore themes and develop spatially located design responses.

By utilising these two methods of consultation, this ensures the evolution of a highly resolved and informed design outcome that is unique to the Onslow community and the site. The consultation process encourages the local community to take an active role in the future design development of the facility, and upon completion become guardians of the space and to activate the Onslow Skate Space.



# THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

## AIMS

The consultation process is an essential and integral component of the development of youth spaces and skate park facilities. In order to ensure the success and longevity of these key community assets it is crucial to engage with the future users of the space. The Pre-design Consultation Workshop aimed to:

- Engage with key stakeholders before the design and construction of the new skate space.
- Inform participants about the program of the project and the process moving forward.
- View previous exemplar designs from skate park designer, Convic to inform and inspire the participants.
- Gather user information and build user profiles.
- Discuss user requirements to aid the future design.
- Highlight other facilities in the Onslow area to inform a new unique vision for the facility.
- Have community and users take ownership of the consultation process outcomes.

## PROMOTIONAL SCOPE

The Consultation aimed to increase the community awareness of the proposed skate space in Onslow and to do so in a public, open and transparent way. Promotional tools to encourage involvement and comments included, posters (right image) and promotion on the Shire of Ashburton website. Posters were delivered to youth services, Onslow Primary School and local businesses around town.

## DATA HANDLING AND ANALYSIS

The data handling and analysis was carried out by Convic. The workshop's were designed to increase inclusiveness and generate data for analysis into themes. All participants were initially informed of workshop objectives and how the information provided will then be used. All responses are treated in confidence, to ensure the anonymity of respondents. No identifying information is included with any responses for this report.

## REPRESENTATION

The views collected in this report are not statistically valid, however they represent the views of some high user groups and nearby residents. Themes presented in this report are derived from workshop contributions and the reliability and validity of these interpretations can be assessed.



# CONSULTATION PROCESS

## METHODOLOGY

Workshop sessions can build a sense of community among users, stakeholders and residents, and are a useful tool to seek the opinions of a small group, allowing varying contributions and ideas to come together. Unlike a survey, they enable the discussion of complex issues and any possible underlying concerns the community of Onslow may have with regards to design, location and function of the skate space.

The workshops were semi-structured to allow the process to unfold freely and invite users to make commitments, suggestions and comments towards a common and collective design vision. Workshops were structured as shown.



# CONSULTATION PROCESS

## PRESENTATION (INFORM AND INSPIRE)

- Inform residents and stakeholders of what is included in the project.
- View and assess existing parks in the municipality as to not replicate existing facilities and to create site responsive and unique spaces. Each design should be responsive to its location, taking its specific geography into account.
- Present an overview of other skate facilities constructed over the past few years, in a variety of locations, similar to the Onslow location.
- Present a selection of skate obstacles and features in order to inspire and inform the potential options and capabilities that are possible within in the youth facility.
- Illustrate the nature of contemporary skate parks with a variety of integrated, broader community usage options, opposed to skater-only facilities. Including a variety of elements such as, social gathering spaces, additional recreational opportunities, potential of activation and iconic and sculptural elements.

## QUESTIONNAIRE (DEVELOPING USER PROFILES)

- Collate an understanding of the participants demographic.
- Understand user skill level, facility type and frequency of usage.
- Understand local park usage and user location preferences to understand user needs and requirements based on their current habits.

## PICTURE VOTING (GATHER IDEAS)

Starts the process of decision making and illustrates individual preferences and “wants”.

## DESIGN WORKSHOP (LINK AND RESOLVE IDEAS)

- Creatively explore and resolve individual ideas through group discussion and workshop. This results in collective group theming, by developing all inclusive resolved ideation distilled through the group decision making processes.
- Workshop participation and presenting the results to an open forum and wider group discussion.

## GROUP DISCUSSION (FOCUS THE THEME)

- Participants discuss and resolve the main or common themes, highlighted from the group work, in order to create an inclusive and collective focused design vision shared by all.

By utilising this method it ensures the evolution of a highly resolved and informed design outcome that is unique to the community. The consultation process encourages the local community to take an active role upon completion of the built outcome to become guardians of the space and most importantly activate the facility.

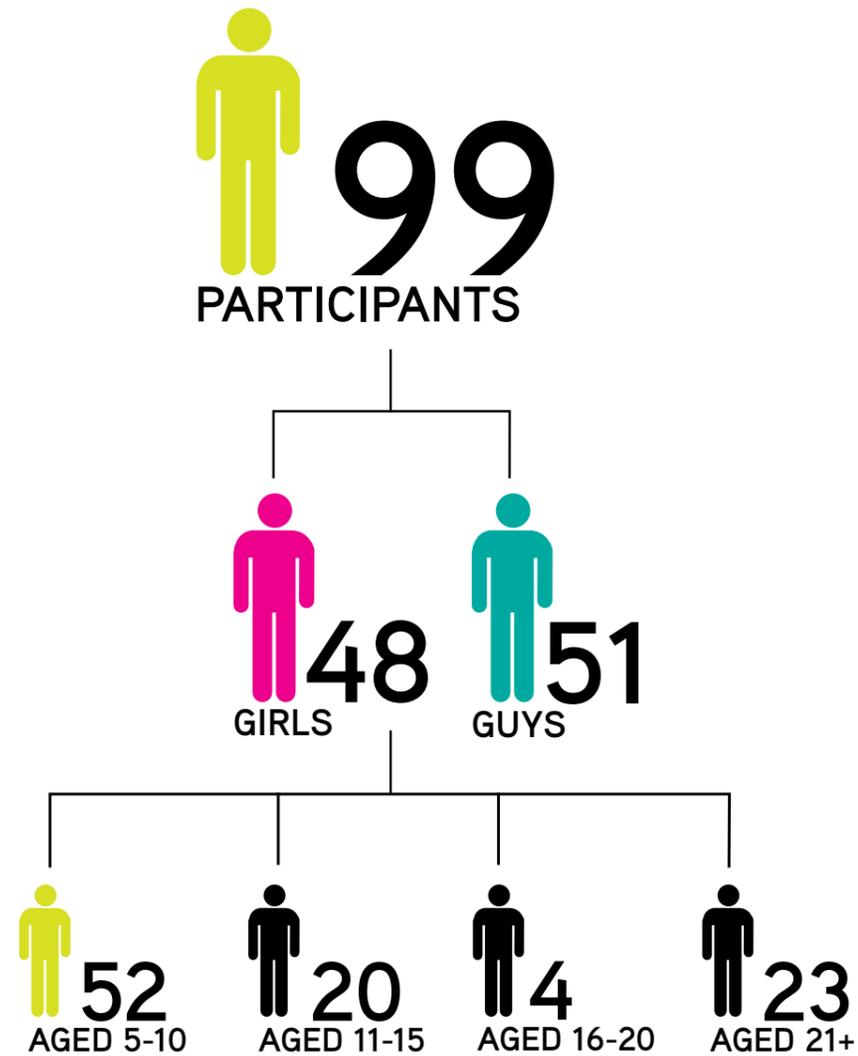
**WHAT SHOULD THE  
ONSLow SKATE  
SPACE BE?**

# DEVELOP USER PROFILES

## QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY RESULTS

The following pages outline the key results from the Questionnaire Survey undertaken as part of the community consultation process. They illustrate the overview of the community profile of participation. Understanding the demographic patterns and trends within the community via the analysis of this data, helps to inform the vision for and opportunities of the proposed skate space.

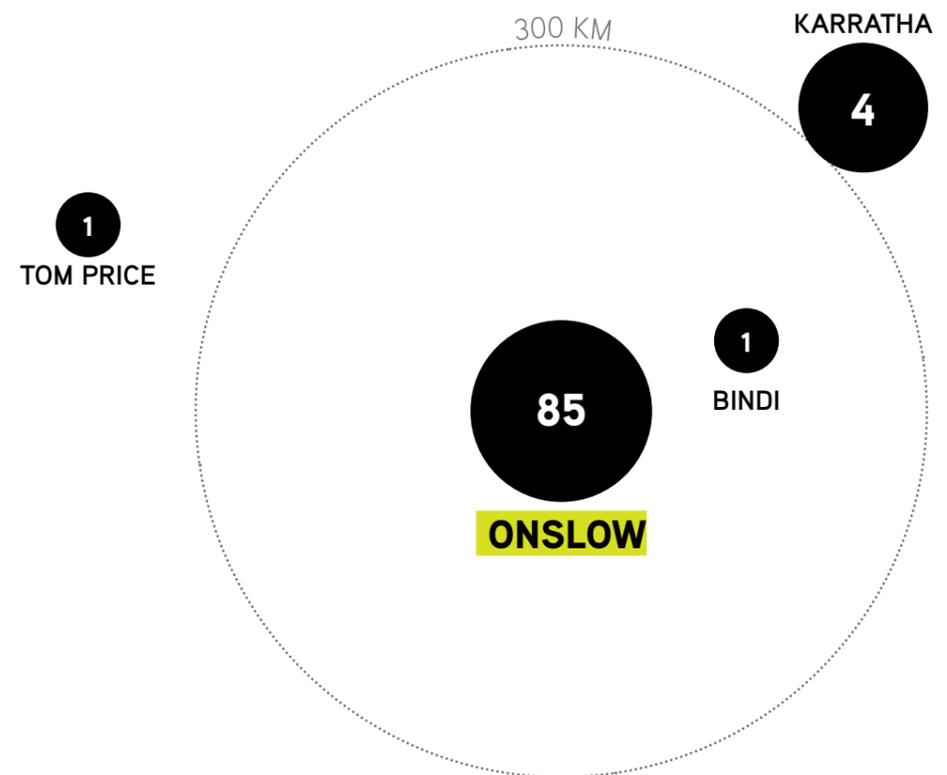
### WHO WAS INVOLVED?



**SUMMARY:**

The event had a great participation rate with approximately 10% of the Onslow population having an input, giving a good representation of the community. It became apparent that the majority of users were youth between 5 and 15, although there were also a number of adults with an interest in the potential outcome of the project and scope.

### WHICH SUBURB / TOWN DO YOU LIVE IN?



**SUMMARY:**

The majority of participants live in and around the Onslow area and live within a close enough distance to the proposed site for it to become a space that will be utilised on a regular basis and be their 'local'.

# DEVELOP USER PROFILES

## ARE YOU A...



**20**

SKATEBOARDER



**22**

BMX



**24**

SCOOTER RIDER



**1**

INLINE SKATER



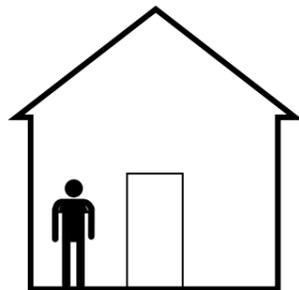
**6**

SPECTATOR



**7**

PARENT/  
GUARDIAN



**13**

LOCAL RESIDENT



**6**

OTHER  
(COUNCIL  
& YOUTH  
WORKERS)

### SUMMARY:

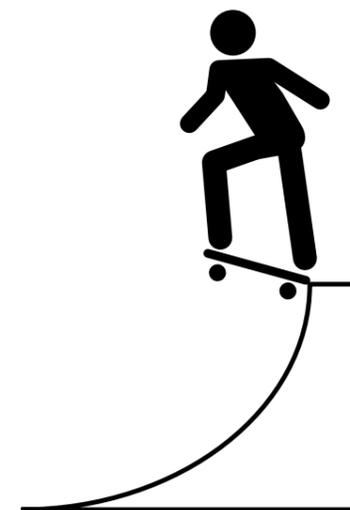
Different skate spaces can favour different style users, for example, jumps boxes more often appeal to scooter and BMX riders, where as ledges and rails often appeal more so to skateboarders. With this understanding, the questionnaire identified a fairly open user profile with many participants selecting several options, this may be highlighting that users have not yet developed a niche because of age and without an existing facility to develop skills. It also shows that the space needs to cater for multiple and different uses.

## WHAT WOULD YOU SAY YOUR SKILL LEVEL IS?



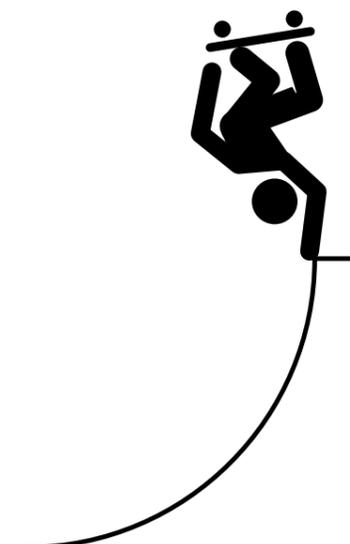
**67**

BEGINNER



**27**

INTERMEDIATE



**5**

ADVANCED

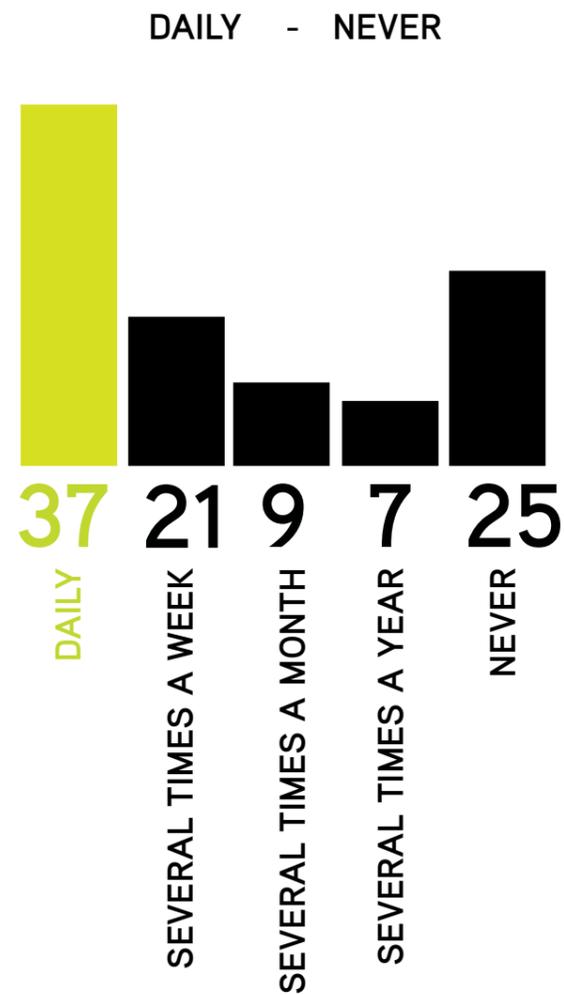
### SUMMARY:

The majority of the participants were beginner with some intermediate users. Currently there is no skate space within the Onslow community and this strongly reflects that users have nowhere to develop skills. Therefore the space should be focussed on beginner to intermediate capability.

It is necessary to provide for skill progression within the skate park. This is to allow the identified beginner level users to progress to intermediate / advanced level users, by providing specific features and obstacles that allow for progression - this will encourage and help maintain interest.

# DEVELOP USER PROFILES

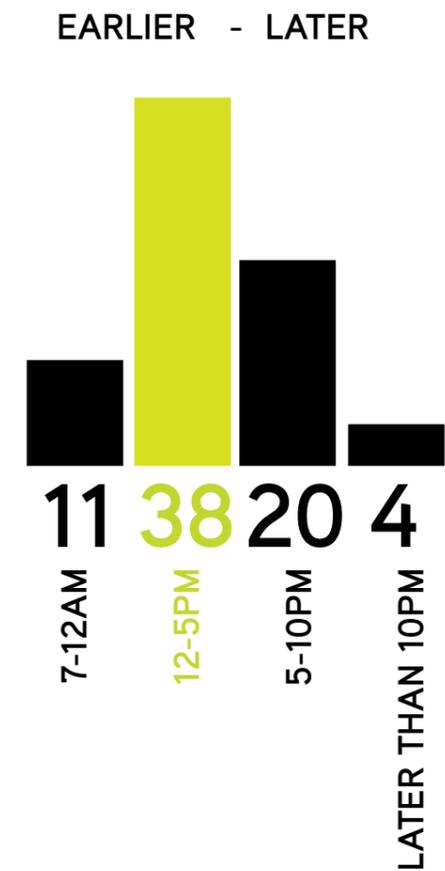
## HOW OFTEN DO YOU RIDE?



**SUMMARY:**

The majority of participants have been identified as direct active users, with many riding on a daily basis. This illustrates a high number of participants that will utilise the proposed skate park on a regular basis now and into the future. A number of participants also selected 'Never'. This is most probably as there is no current facility for community to use and also shows that people who do not ride need to be catered for in other uses and activities.

## WHAT TIME DO YOU USUALLY GO FOR A ROLL AT THE SKATEPARK?



**SUMMARY:**

The result indicates participants will use the facility right through the day with the majority riding in the afternoon from 12 - 5pm. High use through the day may require additional amenity such as shade and drinking fountains to ensure use in such a hot climate is safe through all times of the day. Lighting for night use is a significant consideration, as at a certain time of the year, day time riding will be intolerable.

# GATHERING IDEAS

## WHAT STYLE OF SKATE PARK DO YOU PREFER?



### SUMMARY:

A combination style skate facility with both bowl and street style skateboarding incorporated into the design was preferred. Many participants mentioned bowl and transition elements with flow as an exciting feature.

## WHERE IS YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE TO RIDE AND WHY?

**TOM PRICE**  
IT'S GOT A BIT OF EVERYTHING

**BBALL COURT**  
SALT HILL IS FUN TO GO DOWN

**CAR PARK**  
HOME

**STREET**  
FLOW AND SPEED

**EXMOUTH**  
ONSLOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

FOOTPATH

### SUMMARY:

This "word cloud" above gives greater prominence to the words that appeared most frequently within the participants answers. Many answers did not specify a formalised facility and indicated areas such as the footpath, car parks and on the street. This result indicates the need for a well rounded all inclusive facility that provides a safe environment, away from vehicles, for users to develop skills and learn the basics.

# GATHERING IDEAS

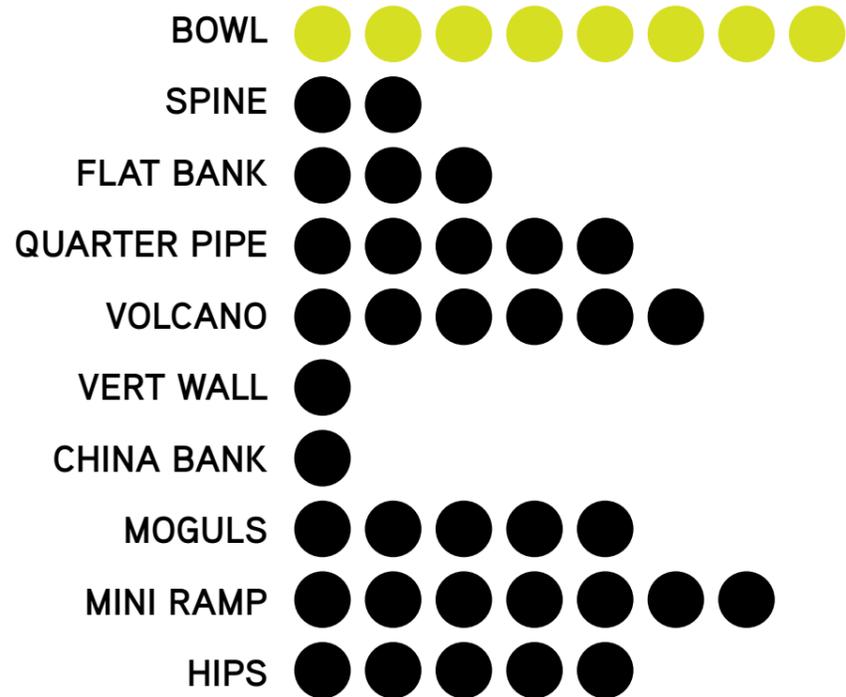
## IF YOU COULD HAVE ONE THING?

Following on from the design presentation, the participants were asked what their number one item would be in the skate space (as seen in the workshop presentation) of inspirational images. This allows participants the opportunity to vote on their favourite ideas, features and elements. They were asked to draw their own concept and identify what should be in their space.

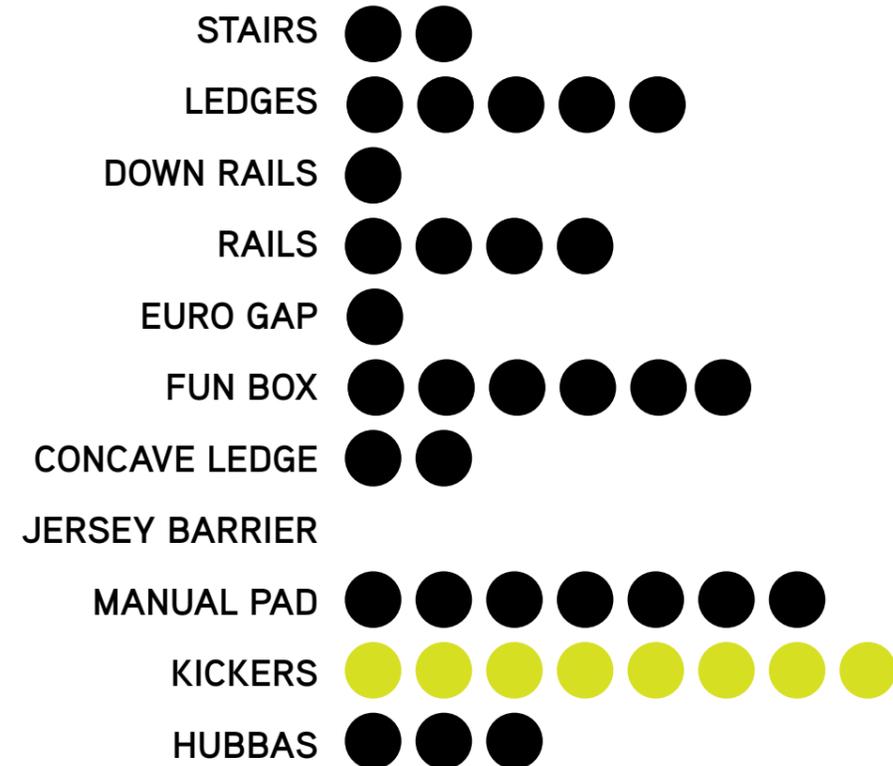
The following tables show the results of the participant selections. This phase culminated with their sketches and indicates which items were highlighted as most popular. The results start to build a pattern of elements that may be included in the new skate park. As a guide, items with over 5 votes are to be given valued consideration for inclusion as part of the new facility. Any other significant patterns are commented upon below each tally.

Please consider that participants voted for more than one response.

### TRANSITION SKATE OBSTACLES



### STREET SKATE OBSTACLES



#### COMMENTS:

Transition obstacles have received a much higher vote count in total than street skate obstacles. This indicates a higher demand for a transition style skate park. There was also many votes for a bowl within the facility.

#### NEW "TRADE IN" IDEAS:



#### COMMENTS:

Although many participants voted higher for transition elements, a considerable number favoured street elements within the park. Items such as kickers and fun boxes seem to gain interest due to their dynamic qualities.

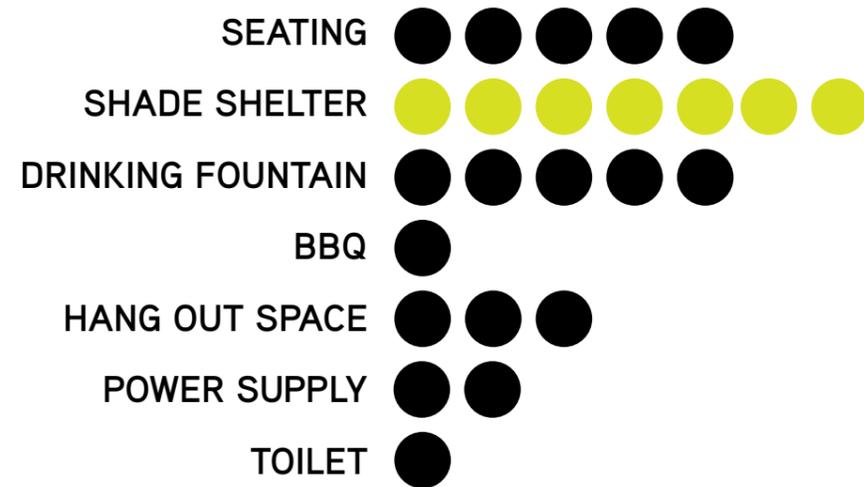
#### NEW "TRADE IN" IDEAS:



# GATHERING IDEAS

Please consider that participants voted for more than one response.

## AMENITIES



**COMMENTS:**

This identified the strong bias to keep cool, hydrated and in shade for respite and refuge. Typically the items such as seating and bin enclosures are inherent in basic facility design. Having a space to hang out developed to be a strong theme with all groups.

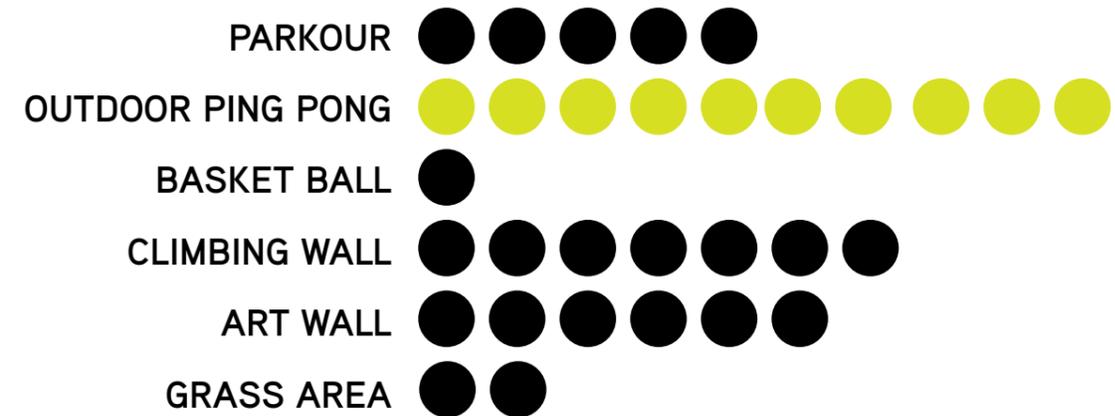
## ICONIC



**COMMENTS:**

Although a low number of votes were given, this indicates a response to an integrated facility that is designed creatively and sculpturally, with potential local art work and shade trees.

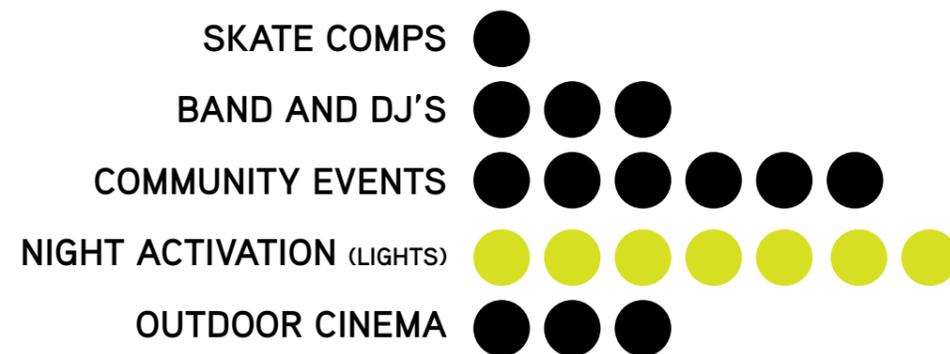
## RECREATIONAL



**COMMENTS:**

Recreational features received a high number of votes especially from spectators and the adults from the community. Outdoor ping pong and climbing structures were particularly popular.

## ACTIVATION



**COMMENTS:**

There was a relatively even spread of votes across the activation options indicating participants want to see an integrated / holistic Youth Facility with flexibility in its spaces.

## LINK AND RESOLVE IDEAS

### DESIGN WORKSHOP

The design workshop is an essential component of the community consultation and engagement process. At this point, participants are immersed in the design process and directly involved in creating ideas, and presenting them. This builds a community based response to the process and develops a sense of value in their ideas, opinions and feedback that engenders ownership of the process.

Participants were organised into groups of four or five and asked to work collaboratively together to create their new skate park. The design workshops centred around the question, **'What should the Onslow Skate Space be?'** The aim was for participants to take the selected items and obstacles from the presentation and develop creative design ideas and solutions by creating a space and linking obstacles together to form a collective thoughtful response. Each group consisted of a mix of participants from young people to more mature riders, parents and other community members. The mix in each group ensures a diversity and breadth of discussion, ideas and building of a general consensus.

The results saw an extensive range of creative and innovative responses, whether written, drawn or using reference images. Each group then presented their specific site plan / ideas to the Convic designer. After the completion of all presentations everyone then had the opportunity to discuss their favourite idea(s).

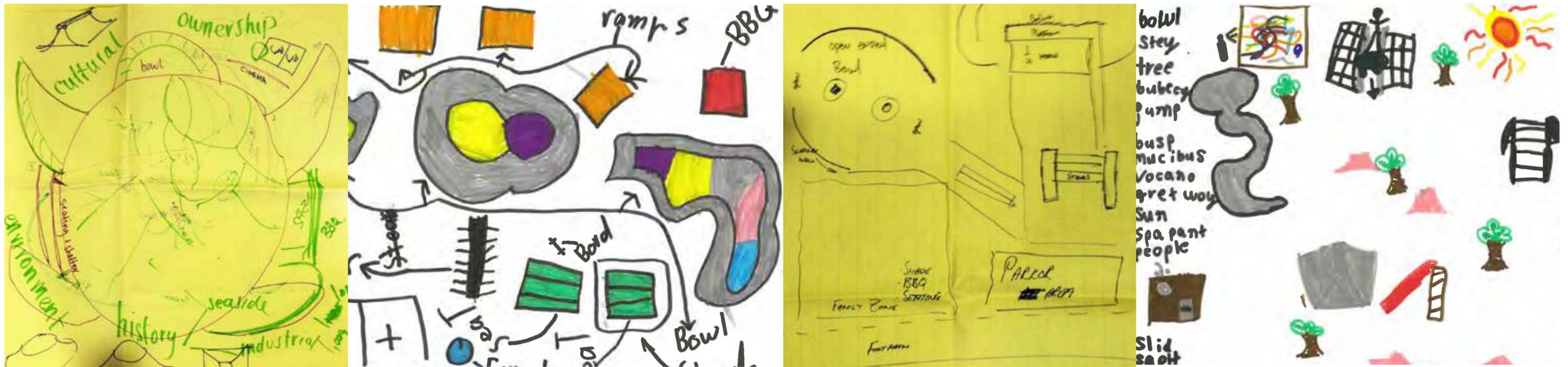


1. Onslow Primary School Consultation

# LINK AND RESOLVE IDEAS



1. Community workshop images



2. Sample imagery from community workshop conceptual design

# FOCUS THE THEME



## ONSLow PRIMARY SCHOOL

### DESCRIPTION

Consultation took place at Onslow Primary school. There was a great turnout of participants with youth coming in groups of approximately 20 per session. The youth were excited by the Convic presentation and responded well to the iconic sculptural skate images and items such as the parkour and colourful night lighting. Many participants liked the idea of having something iconic that represents and reflects the Onslow community, with multiple pictures of the indigenous flag and ideas such as termite mound climbing structures as a possibility.

### KEY ITEMS:

- A number of amenity items were noted such as shade, trees, drinking fountains, seating and BBQ areas
- Many of the graphics depicted a combination of transition and street elements. Although a high number of concepts came through with bowls and features such as ramps, volcanos, snake runs and quarter pipes.
- A high percentage of the concepts had items outside of the 'skate' with features such as outdoor ping pong, climbing structures, play areas and art walls.
- A colourful exciting space seemed to be a strong theme throughout all of the workshops.

## BINDI BINDI

### DESCRIPTION

Consultation took place at the Bow Shed in the Bindi Bindi community on Second Ave. This was an informal meeting with representatives from the community. Convic gave a casual image based presentation that seemed well received by participants, with general excitement around the idea of a multipurpose youth space. It was noted that youth currently do not have a skate park and will need a space to develop skills with a focus on beginner to intermediate users.

### KEY ITEMS:

- Participants were drawn to the idea of recreational activities such as climbing walls and community art projects.
- There was a focus on seating, shade and a grassy place for people to hang out.
- Participants liked the idea of activities for adults to take part in with ideas such as outdoor ping pong and basketball.

## V SWANS

### DESCRIPTION

Consultation took place at the MPC building. The Convic presentation was well received by youth with excitement at the idea of a new Youth Space. A general theme of a combination style facility with both street and transition elements seemed to be favourable with the youth.

### KEY ITEMS:

- Multiple participants liked the idea of a bowl or snake run style features.
- Trees and shade were a dominant theme through the majority of participants concepts.
- Participants liked the idea of a social hangout space with vibrant art walls and somewhere to be with friends.

# FOCUS THE THEME



## THALANYJI

### DESCRIPTION

This consultation took place at the Thalanyji houses on McRae Place with a Thalanyji Representative. Convic gave a presentation, explaining the process and opportunities for the Onslow Skate Space.

There was a strong focus on council initiatives through this consultation. Survey's sheets and information were issued for the Thalanyji community to fill out and provide feedback at a later date. Convic look forward to feedback from this user group and will incorporate items into the consultation report / concept upon receipt.

### KEY ITEMS:

- Thalanyji would like to be continuously informed through all phases of the site selection and conceptual development phases. This shows a keen interest in the project and is valuable to the vision of the skate park.

## COMMUNITY

### DESCRIPTION

The community consultation took place at the Onslow Sports club with a great turn out of approximately 20-30 people. Convic gave a full presentation with participants filling out surveys and then being divided into groups of 4-5 to come up with group concepts. Many participants were excited about the idea of a new facility and the concept of it being 'more than a concrete skatepark'. There was an emphasis on it being a progressive, multifunctional space. Many ideas generated had a focus on a creative space that is iconic and reflective of the Onslow community and landscape. One example looked at the idea of structuring the park around the iconic Onslow turtle with flow features around the exterior of the head and feet and street features throughout the central shell.

### KEY ITEMS:

- Participants wanted to see a space that has a multiplicity of uses such as; light activation, BBQ's, basketball, rock climbing, parkour, shaded seating and drinking fountains.
- Trees and the idea of a green retreat were a strong theme from the evening.
- The event highlighted the need for a space that caters for Onslow's community needs rather than a one dimensional skate park.

## STAKEHOLDERS

### DESCRIPTION

This consultation took place at the MPC and covered similar ground to that of the community consultation. However, it conveyed some of the key findings around user group profiles, trends in desired features and reasoning behind site selections. There was a focus on some of the more practical considerations behind the facility in relation to current community issues and productive discussion around ways a Youth Facility can respond to and address a number of issues.

### KEY ITEMS:

- The facility must be robust and appropriate materials to deal with current anti social behaviour issues within the community.
- Recommendations of no rocks or materials that can be thrown or dislodged into public areas.
- Plenty of shade, seating and drinking fountains.
- Items that will be engaging for youth and teenagers including art, climbing and action sports.
- Diverse multifunctional space that caters for the whole community 'something for everyone!'

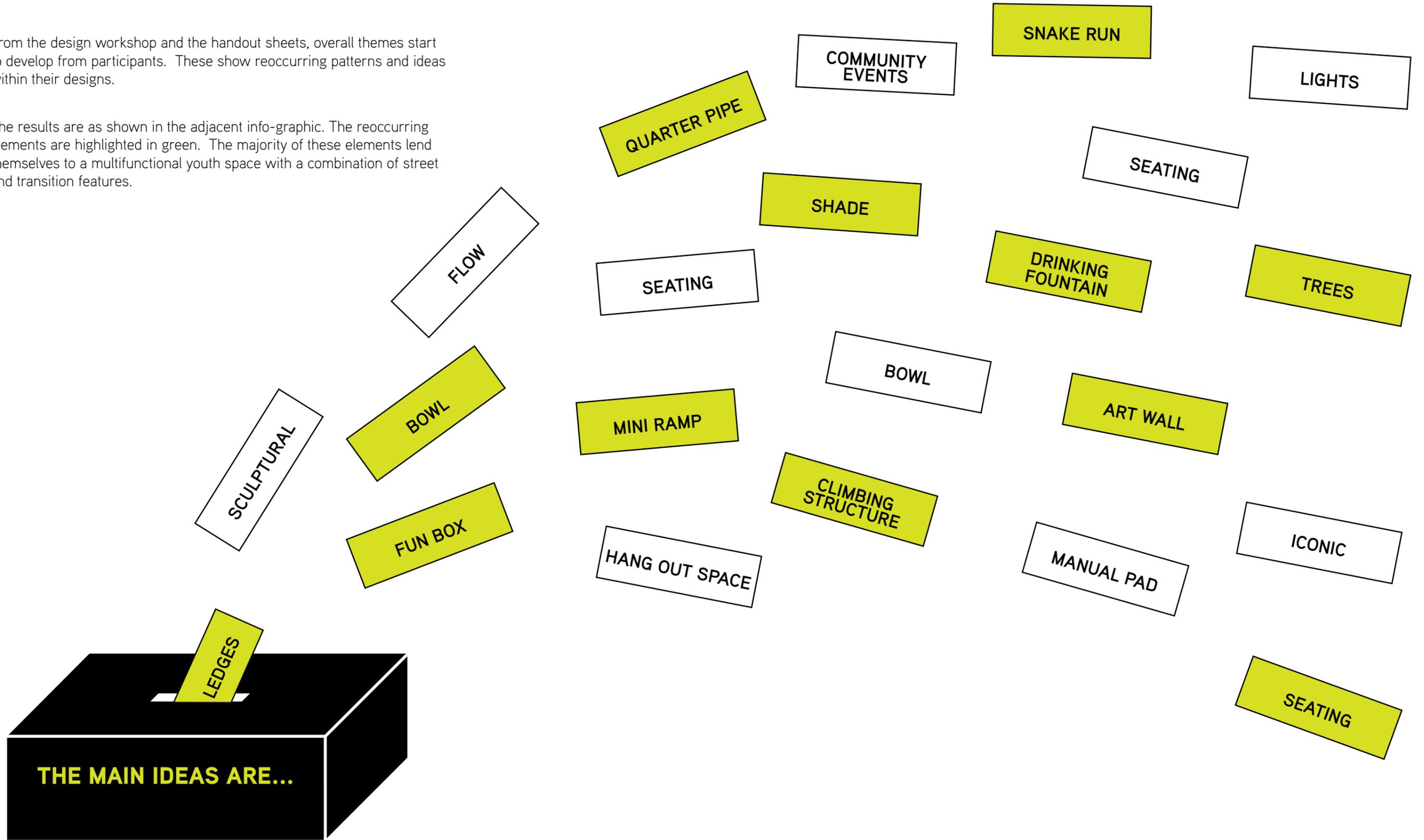
**PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK**



# DEVELOPING THE VISION

From the design workshop and the handout sheets, overall themes start to develop from participants. These show reoccurring patterns and ideas within their designs.

The results are as shown in the adjacent info-graphic. The reoccurring elements are highlighted in green. The majority of these elements lend themselves to a multifunctional youth space with a combination of street and transition features.



The collation of key outcomes from the questionnaires, picture voting and the group presentations, as well as conversations had with users have been thematically organised to create a clear design vision. These themes will be used to develop the draft concept design, that will provide the foundation for the development of the design for the new skate space.

## **THE DESIGN VISION**

The Onslow Skate Space is to become a unique, iconic and site responsive multipurpose, multigenerational facility that aims to complement the existing and proposed uses and facilities identified within the Onslow masterplan. The skate space will become the central hub for youth and the broader community of Onslow.

### **UNIQUE, INTERESTING TRANSITION ELEMENTS**

Acknowledging the future user feedback, the design of the facility looks to incorporate a number of flow/transition skate elements. The aesthetic and materiality of obstacles will appeal to an iconic sculptural style, with consideration given to unique rideable pieces. Particular transition elements will include a bowl, quarter pipes and flow elements with possible inclusion of moguls and a volcano.

A small amount of street/plaza will be included within the design, such as a fun box and manual pad, in order to expand the use for all users. As there is no current facility in Onslow the facility will have a focus on a beginner to intermediate level. It will be designed to cater for a range of abilities, allowing users to progress in the facility by developing their skills from a beginner to an advanced level user in a safe and creative manner.

### **SUPPORTING AMENITIES**

To ensure a central community space with comfort for users, the facility will offer a number of social opportunities. This includes the provision of areas of shade and refuge for use throughout the day. The spaces will enable ongoing activation potential for community events, competitions and workshops.

The inclusion of timed lights will be a consideration for the facility. This will assist in activating the space at night, particularly during the summer, in order to avoid the heat of the day and to maximise potential activation and events.

### **INTEGRATION**

The youth facility design will be integrated into the existing landscape context of the Onslow Precinct, considering the physical and aesthetic links made between the skate space and the landscape design in order to create a holistically integrated facility for the use of the whole community.



**NEXT PHASE**

Upon approval of the report and endorsement of the selected site by council, a draft concept plan will be developed and presented to the client and community at the concept design consultation event.

As part of the ongoing design process for the development of the Onslow Skate Space, a draft concept review workshop is to be held. As well as creating a truly relevant design, this review will ensure the final concept design reflects community needs, user requirements and project vision. This continued involvement connects the community with the project design process and ultimately having a vested interest in the final outcome. This engenders community pride and ownership in both the process and the public facility, creating a strong sense of stewardship of the communities public spaces.

It is suggested that the workshop be held over two days, the first targeting community focus groups and the second, allowing for open community consultation.

# GLOSSARY

THIS IS A LIST OF THE BASIC ELEMENTS CONTAINED WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT. IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT ANY OF THE DEFINITIONS USED WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT CONVIC ON (03) 9486 9899.

**Transition** - graded/flowing skate elements such as bowls, quarter pipes, half pipes etc.



**Plaza** - Low level skate elements which straighter edges and angles such as ledges, manual pads etc.



**Street** - Skate elements based on situations that are found on the street, stairs, sharp banks etc.



**Rails** - a steel street element, with a round or square profile. Often down stairs or flat.



**Stair Sets** - a street element simply consisting of a flight of stairs.



**Bowl** - transition style element, that can be either closed or open.



**Ledges** - a street style skate element, normally a block at varying size and profile.



**Bank** - a skate element made up of a flat angle, either with or without a radius at the base.



**Pyramid** - often made up of banks, with any number of sides from 3 to 6 to make a pyramid structure.



**Hubba** - Similar format as a ledge, but traverses down a level change.



**Volcano** - transition style element, made up of a circled quarter pipe to form a volcano form.



# GLOSSARY

**A-frame rail** - A type of steel rail with a pointed top.



**Manual Pad** - Low level street element, similar to a ledge but often lower, wider and longer.



**Mini Ramp/Half Pipe** - transition element made up of opposing transitions of varying heights.



**Jumps Box** - a street style skate element, normally a block at varying size and profile.



**Vert Wall** - A vertical wall with a radius at the base to enable users to reach as high as possible.



**Rainbow Rail** - a steel rail arched into the ground to create a rainbow shape.



**Pole Jam** - steel pole sticking out the ground at varying angles, based on a bent bollard.



**Euro Gap** - a bank with a jump gap onto a higher level.



**Spine** - Two quarter pipes back to back to enable users to jump out of one and into another.



**Kicker to Kicker** - a kicker ramp (bank) with an opposing kicker, with a jump gap (garden) between.



**Jump Box** - a quarter pipe back to back with a bank to enable users to jump out of one and into another.



**Snake Run** - a transition style, made up of long flowing lines of undulating forms.



# CONVIC

**CREATE COMMUNITY**

UNIT 13, 46-50 REGENT STREET  
RICHMOND VIC 3121 AUSTRALIA  
T +61 3 9486 9899 F +61 3 9486 9088  
CONVIC.COM