

Guideline



MANAGEMENT OF REGIONAL SKATEPARKS

July 2018

Document Control

This page will be re-issued every time amendments are made to controlled documents. Amended documents will have their revision status and issue date updated accordingly.

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Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
2. Definitions.....	1
3. Classification of Skateparks	1
4. Requests for additional skateparks	2
5. Impact of vandalism and impacts on upgrades.....	2
6. Master Plan for Skateparks.....	2
7. Related Documents	2

1. Introduction

Lockyer Valley Regional Council has skatepark facilities in Forest Hill, Gatton, Helidon, Kensington Grove, Laidley, Murphys Creek and Withcott. There was previously a skatepark at Grantham prior to the 2011 floods which has not been replaced. The skateparks at Gatton, Laidley and Kensington Grove appear to have the highest levels of use, while the skateparks at Murphys Creek and Helidon have the lowest use.

Council receives periodic formal and informal requests to upgrade facilities at most of skateparks in the region. These requests range from extensions to the skatepark surface through to the provision of shade and other amenities. Council also responds to regular incidences of vandalism across the range of skateparks with the highest incidences occurring at Laidley, Kensington Grove and Gatton.

This Guideline outlines the framework to be applied in the development and maintenance of skateparks in the region.

2. Definitions

The following definitions apply for the purposes of this guideline:

Skateparks - A facility purpose-built for the primary use of skateboarding and scooter riding, and which may or may not also cater for roller-skating, inline-skating, BMX riding and other outdoor activities

3. Classification of Skateparks

To assist Council to determine the prioritisation of capital upgrades for these skatepark facilities, there are three classifications for skateparks in the region.

Level 1: Major Regional - Gatton Skatepark

Future upgrades and expansions are primarily focused on this facility. This would allow for the development of this skatepark to have different but linked areas to cater for beginner, intermediate and advanced users. Future developments will occur in consultation with local skatepark users and relevant professional industry organisations, and will be funded from a combination of Council's capital budget and external grants. Developing this skatepark as a Major Regional facility will also support its use for regional competitions, which has previously demonstrated it can draw competitors from across South East Queensland.

Level 2: Regional – Laidley Skatepark

Upgrades will occur at this facility on a lower frequency and level than the Major Regional facility at Gatton. Future developments will follow on from consultation with users and industry professionals, and be funded primarily from external grants. Developing this skatepark as Regional facility will also support its use for local competitions which has previously demonstrated to draw competitors from across the region.

Level 3 Local - Forest Hill, Helidon, Kensington Grove, Murphys Creek and Withcott Skateparks

Council will conduct regular maintenance of local skateparks to ensure safety and functionality while deferring any capital upgrades until at least 2023 unless a significant population change in the local area warrants earlier consideration for upgrades.

4. Requests for additional skateparks

Requests for additional skateparks (e.g. Grantham, Hatton Vale, Plainland) are discouraged on the basis that the existing local skateparks have generally low usage and building additional facilities does not represent value for money. The limited public transport options for young people to get to various skateparks is noted and accepted as a part of rural residential living.

Where a significant population increase occurs in a local area within the next five years, Council may consider upgrades to existing Local facilities or the construction of new skateparks.

5. Impact of vandalism and impacts on upgrades

There is a strong relationship between the impact of vandalism and the delivery of upgrades to skateparks. Skateparks that are well maintained and are invested in encourage the users of the facility to look after it and report vandalism.

An annual budget that includes planned and unplanned maintenance and capital improvements will be established for skateparks both in general and per individual park. Any savings at the end of a financial year may be considered for the following year's capital budget using the established budget process. This approach may provide an incentive for skatepark users to take care of their local park and to report perpetrators of vandalism.

The installation of signs at skateparks to advise that budgets for upgrades will be spent on responding to vandalism and that Council will not consider requests for upgrades until the incidences of vandalism are notably decreased may assist with promoting responsible use of community assets.

It is noted that vandalism may not be perpetrated by users of the skateparks (i.e. skaters and scooter riders) however; the general mess that is left by some skatepark users clearly indicates low levels of responsibility among some users.

6. Master Plan for Skateparks

Master plans will be developed for each skatepark as the need arises and based on the hierarchy of Major Regional, Region and Local classifications. Skatepark users will be consulted through the Master plan process to form a potential long term upgrade plan, which can be constructed element by element as budget allows. To assist with this process, a buffer for future expansion should be retained around each existing skatepark.

7. Related Documents

NA