



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Chair), Mr Jonathan Davis MLA (Deputy
Chair), Ms Nicole Lawder MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into skateboarding and skate parks in the ACT

Submission Number: 01

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“To actively nurture and inspire skateboarding
in the ACT and surrounding region”

15 June 2023

ACT Legislative Assembly
Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

By email: LCommitteeECI@parliament.act.gov.au

RE: Inquiry into skateboarding and skate parks in the ACT

Dear Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on skateboarding and skate parks in the ACT.

The Canberra Skateboarding Association (CSA) is a volunteer-run not-for-profit association that provides a voice for the skateboarding community in the ACT and surrounds. Our views are informed by decades of collective skateboarding experience, connections with the international skateboarding industry and feedback from the local skateboarding community.

The CSA’s mission is to actively nurture and inspire skateboarding in the ACT and surrounding region. To this end, we are advocating for new, more accessible and better maintained skateparks and skate-friendly public spaces across the ACT.

We call on the ACT Government to implement a comprehensive **ACT Skate Strategy** to address current and future infrastructure and maintenance needs.

Thank you for considering our submission, and we look forward to the Committee’s final report.

Regards

Tony Caruana, President

Brenden Wood, Vice President

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“To actively nurture and inspire skateboarding
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“To actively nurture and inspire skateboarding
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Introduction

Established in 2007, CSA advocates for the construction and maintenance of ACT skateparks, skateboarding facilities and skate-friendly public spaces. Our Committee consists of volunteer local skateboarders who provide a voice for the skateboarding community in the ACT and surrounds.

The CSA has provided fee Learn to Skateboard sessions twice each month since around 2015 (and from 2012 to 2014 under Skateboard Australia), alternating between Belconnen, Woden, Gungahlin and Tuggeranong skateparks. We host informal skate competitions at ACT skateparks, and occasionally run coaching and competition events for local councils outside of the ACT.

The CSA has also been proud to host **Belco Bowl Jam** for the last few years, which has become one of Australia’s most popular skateboarding events, attracting hundreds of domestic and international visitors to the region, and promoting the ACT to younger audiences around the world.

The ACT has been a world leader for over 40 years in providing public skateparks, initially with iconic facilities like Charnwood Bowl, Kambah U-pipe, Erindale Banks and the original Belco Skatepark. Many Australian and international skateboarders and skateboarding companies include the ACT in their annual travel itinerary due to Canberra’s reputation as a skate-friendly city.

ACT skateparks are always busy with families and people of all ages, genders, backgrounds and abilities, riding BMX, scooters, roller skates, and (of course) skateboards. With many having lights, ACT skateparks are used for up to 16 hours per day on every day that the sun is shining. Research has also shown that skateboarding provides significant [community and public health benefits](#), and skate-friendly public spaces can improve public safety by way of activation and passive surveillance.

The ACT has produced some of Australia’s most talented skateboarders, and has grown an active and inclusive skateboarding scene. Local Skateboarding and BMX businesses have also been a massive support to their respective communities and have contributed to the ACT economy.

Although skateboarding’s popularity continues to grow in the ACT and around the world, particularly following its debut at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, the ACT is failing to keep up. The ACT is falling behind in the provision and management of contemporary skateparks, with some facilities lacking in repair and maintenance, and no coordinated infrastructure planning approach to develop new facilities to cater for the ACT’s expanding suburbs. There has been no new skateparks built in the ACT for over a decade and an omission of skate elements in almost all new play spaces.

Modern facilities being built across Australia are leaping ahead in design and quality, with large competition bowls ([Bar Beach](#), [Bateau Bay](#), [Noble Park](#), [Scarborough Beach](#)), competition halfpipes ([Mona Vale](#), [West Beach](#), [Sydney Olympic Park](#)), pump tracks ([Terry Hills](#), [Murray Bridge](#), [Rivergums](#), [Glenroy](#)) and modern street facilities ([Bunbury](#), [Eveleigh](#), [Sydenham](#), [Box Hill](#), [St Claire](#), [Onslow](#)).

Other modern skate-friendly regions are recognising the benefits of skateboarding by implementing comprehensive skate strategies, such as the Australian best-practice [Skate Melbourne Plan](#).



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We are grateful that the ACT Government is in the process of constructing a [new vert ramp](#) at Belconnen skatepark, and has sought design options for a new skatepark as part of the [Kippax Master Plan](#) to replace the existing miniramp as the shops expand.

However, the ACT still lacks a coordinated approach for the construction of new skateboarding facilities and skate spaces, and ACT skateparks are lacking in regular maintenance, often in disrepair or in need of better and more regular cleaning of rubbish and debris to maintain user safety.

Our understanding is that ACT skateparks are effectively treated the same as general playgrounds, rather than having their own dedicated maintenance schedule and procedures. This approach may be contributing to the lack of regular cleaning and maintenance that is often noted by CSA members, and which can contribute to the risk of serious injury at ACT skateparks.

Despite a promising consultation process to which CSA contributed, there was also very little in the ACT Government’s announced plans for the [Tuggeranong Foreshore Project](#). Tuggeranong Skatepark has reached over 25 years of age, much older than the original Belconnen Skatepark when it was upgraded in 2011. We feel that the planned “works to address safety issues and rideability such as minor resurfacing and replacement of damaged ramp surfaces” is not an adequate response to the needs of the Tuggeranong skateboarding community.

In response to the somewhat deflating announcement of the Tuggeranong Foreshore Project works, CSA members lodged a [petition](#) with the Legislative Assembly seeking a new, modern, world-class skatepark in Tuggeranong. A [separate petition](#) was also lodged calling for the refurbishment of the Gungahlin skatepark and the installation of lighting. These petitions led to the current Inquiry.

The Minister for Sport and Recreation’s [response](#) to the Tuggeranong petition noted the ACT Government’s ACT Play Space Strategy and the Tuggeranong Foreshore Project, but indicated that “there are no plans to construct a new skatepark in Tuggeranong”. The Minister did note that the ACT Government “will consider opportunities for Tuggeranong skatepark in future stages of [its] suburban infrastructure program”.

The Minister’s [response](#) to the Gungahlin petition advised that “feasibility and preliminary design work will be undertaken on lighting for the skate park as part of the Yerrabi Ponds Design Project”. But given its age and disrepair, CSA considers that Gungahlin skatepark also requires a rebuild.

It is also worth noting that CSA wrote an [open letter](#) to all candidates prior to the 2020 ACT Election, and the Minister responded indicating that ACT Labor would “work with [CSA] and other interested organisations on developing a plan for a skate-friendly Canberra” (**Attachment A**).

To address these issues, CSA calls on the ACT Government to implement a comprehensive **ACT skate strategy** to address current and future infrastructure and maintenance needs.

Canberra Skateboarding Association

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CSA’s Recommendations

1. Implement a comprehensive ACT skate strategy to address current and future infrastructure and maintenance needs

As noted, the ACT lacks an adequate approach to skate infrastructure planning and maintenance. For these reasons, CSA recommends that the ACT Government implement a comprehensive **ACT Skate Strategy** to address current and future infrastructure and maintenance needs.

2. Construct a new, world-class skatepark in Tuggeranong to modernise the 25-year-old facility and cater to the growing population in the area

Tuggeranong Skatepark is past its used by date, and the minor repairs planned as part of the Tuggeranong Foreshore Project are not sufficient to meet the community’s current and future needs. The CSA recommends that the ACT Government construct a new, world-class skatepark in Tuggeranong to modernise the 25-year-old facility and cater to the growing population in the area.

3. Rebuild Gungahlin skatepark to replace the ageing infrastructure, and install lighting to increase usage of and safety at the skatepark

Although the ACT Government has committed to assessing the feasibility of installing lighting at Gungahlin Skatepark, CSA considers that Gungahlin Skatepark has also reached its used by date and that the growing population in the area warrants a new, modern facility. The CSA therefore recommends that the ACT Government rebuild Gungahlin Skatepark to replace the ageing infrastructure, and install lighting to increase usage of and safety at the skatepark.

4. Construct new skateparks and skate-friendly spaces in our new and growing suburbs, including Molonglo, Ginnenderry, Dickson and the southern Tuggeranong region

The ACT Government has and is developing new suburbs that are quickly filling with families and young people, many of who would like local accessible skateboarding facilities and skate-friendly spaces. The CSA recommends that the ACT Government construct new skateparks and skate-friendly spaces in our new and growing suburbs, including Molonglo, Ginnenderry, Dickson and the southern Tuggeranong region. Implementing CSA’s first Recommendation (implement a comprehensive **ACT Skate Strategy**) will also assist in the future infrastructure planning process.

5. Construct more skateable architecture and integrate skate elements into play spaces

A comprehensive **ACT Skate Strategy** would also assist in ensuring that the needs of the ACT skateboarding community are considered in new planning projects, such as Master Plans. As new play spaces are planned, constructed and upgraded, the ACT Government should integrate more skateable architecture (including public art) and other skate elements to cater for a broader and more diverse user group than currently provided in traditional playgrounds. Public spaces in the ACT should be designed to safely accommodate skateboarding.



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a) Accessibility of skateboarding and skate parks across the community

Until recent decades, the ACT had a strong history of incorporating skate elements into neighbourhood play spaces. This includes older facilities like Fadden Pines, Richardson Bowl and Charnwood Bowl, and the miniramps at Kippax, Dickson, Campbell, Stirling and Telopea Park (some of which have since been removed or are planned to be removed). These skate elements provided opportunities for skateboarders of all ages and skill levels to practice in their own neighbourhoods.

While the ACT has [19 existing skateboarding facilities](#) of varying size and quality, it is also important to address skateboarding accessibility in new suburban developments. Integration of skate elements in new public play spaces would provide a balanced distribution of skate facilities across the ACT and avoid the need for young people to travel to access a suitable facility.

Integrating skate elements into play spaces also caters to a wider age demographic beyond that of traditional playground equipment. By adding skate elements, these spaces engage all ages and a wider range of interests. Attracting a broader demographic through skateboarding fosters social interaction, encourages physical activity, and promotes a sense of community.

In recent years, the inclusion of skate elements in new suburban ACT developments has been lacking. The ACT Government should revisit the successful approach of the past and prioritise the integration of skate elements in new parks, play spaces and developments. These skate elements should be designed to meet the evolving needs and preferences of skateboarders, reflecting the modern street elements that promote the progression and enjoyment of skateboarding.

The ACT Government recently [sought community feedback](#) around gender sensitive spaces. This included sessions at Belconnen Skatepark, to which a number of CSA members participated. Although it does not appear that the planned Gender Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines and Implementation Plan have been finalised, the CSA looks forward to their publication and the positive impact it will have on the accessibility of skateboarding and skateparks across the ACT.

The CSA’s regular free Learn to Skateboard sessions also help to foster an accessible, diverse and growing skateboarding community in the ACT. Led by experienced volunteer skateboard coaches, these sessions provide a welcoming introduction for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to learn and engage in skateboarding. By offering free Learn to Skateboard sessions, CSA is breaking down barriers and making skateboarding more accessible. This initiative contributes to the development of a vibrant and inclusive ACT skateboarding culture and skatepark community.

We are also aware of and have relationships with other organisations that provide skateboarding events and lessons in the ACT, including Canberra Old School Skaters and their annual Cross Cup slalom event, and other commercial providers of skateboarding lessons.

The photo below shows all the stoked skaters and their families at one of CSA’s well-attended free Learn to Skateboard sessions at Belco Skatepark.

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b) Skateboarder safety and welfare

Research conducted by the [University of Western Australia](#) on the inclusion of young people in the community has shown that skateboarding provides significant community and public health benefits. Skate-friendly public spaces with robust architecture often increase public safety through activation and passive surveillance, as demonstrated by the success of the [Skate Melbourne Plan](#).

In contrast, new public spaces in the ACT are often fitted with anti-skate architecture that actively discourages skateboarding. Public spaces in the ACT should instead be designed to accommodate skateboarding or at least be less hostile towards it.

Proper maintenance of ACT skateparks is also crucial. Most skateparks in the ACT are over 10 years old, and some are over 25 years old. The ageing of the ACT’s facilities is particularly evident at Tuggeranong and Gungahlin skateparks. The surfaces of these skateparks have deteriorated, posing hazards to skateboarders and making them borderline unusable (as small rocks, uneven surface transitions/joins and loose debris can wedge under skateboard wheels causing heavy fall injuries). Moreover, the design of these skateparks is outdated, lacking modern street elements and features that are expected in the ever-evolving skateboarding culture. As a result, many ACT skateboarders, including top-ranked competitive skateboarders, choose to avoid Tuggeranong and Gungahlin skateparks and instead skate outside of their local area at more suitable facilities.

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The ACT Government should implement a comprehensive **ACT Skate Strategy** to address current and future infrastructure and maintenance needs. In particular, ACT skateparks should have their own dedicated maintenance schedule and procedures to address their specific cleaning and maintenance needs. Treating ACT skateparks like other play spaces has led to the premature deterioration of some of the ACT Government’s assets, and poor choice of repair contractors has led to further damage and additional repairs, such as occurred at Belconnen and Woden skateparks.

Skatepark location can also influence skateboarder safety and welfare. By situating skateparks in prominent locations, such as near busy streets, shops, parks, or community centres, safer spaces are created through passive surveillance and activation. Skateparks that are visible from surrounding areas tend to have higher foot traffic and attract a broader range of users, including families, pedestrians, and other park-goers. This increased activity not only enhances the vibrancy of the space but also promotes a sense of safety and security. When more people are present, it reduces the likelihood of antisocial behaviour and provides a supportive community environment.

Moreover, locating skateparks in high visibility areas helps to integrate skateboarding into the broader urban fabric, fostering a sense of inclusivity and acceptance. When skateboarding becomes a visible part of everyday life, it promotes a positive image of the skateboarding community.

By placing skateparks in high visibility areas, the ACT Government can not only create safer spaces, but also promote the benefits of skateboarding, such as physical activity, social interaction, and community building. The ACT Government should recognise the value of skateboarding as a positive recreational pursuit and provide skateboarders with well-designed, accessible, visible and safe spaces to enjoy their activity.

Skatepark design can also help to minimise the risk of injury and help prevent antisocial behaviour. Open skatepark designs that avoid having ‘hidden’ areas or blind corners provide visibility across the space and help prevent pockets of antisocial behaviour. Designing skateparks that ‘flow’ and have clearly identifiable traffic directions also helps to minimise collisions between skatepark users. Investing in good quality design is a must for all new skatepark developments.



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c) Skate parks, including planning and maintenance

The ACT Government’s historical commitment to skateboarding infrastructure has helped nurture a vibrant skateboarding community that has produced talented local skateboarders. Landmarks like Belco Bowl and Erindale Banks have become iconic destinations for skateboarders, both nationally and internationally. However, it is important to acknowledge that the momentum and progress in the development of ACT skateparks and skate spaces seems to have halted over a decade ago.

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The 2 separate petitions submitted to the Legislative Assembly, each advocating for the much needed upgrades of Tuggeranong and Gungahlin skateparks, have garnered strong community support, receiving 776 and 612 signatures respectively. This demonstrates the recognition of the deteriorating conditions and outdated designs of those skateparks, and the need for improved facilities in the ACT. We call on the ACT Government to rebuild these skateparks and create new, safe and modern spaces that cater to the current and future needs of ACT skateboarders.

As previously mentioned, ACT skatepark cleaning, maintenance and repairs is also lacking. Skateboarders also often experience slow responses to Fix My Street requests about skatepark maintenance issues, and have witnessed ACT Government cleaning crews ignoring the rubbish and debris on skateparks and just cleaning the playgrounds adjacent to them. This results in inadequate skatepark cleaning and maintenance, which can lead to significant injury. We also regularly experience issues with the lighting at the ACT’s major skateparks, particularly at the beginning and end of daylight savings when the lights either do not come on at all or switch off too early.

Skateboarders, including young CSA members, often find it difficult to identify and engage with ACT Government planning processes around new skateboarding facilities. We often hear about Master Plan projects by chance, sometimes too late to effectively engage. These planning processes do not automatically consider the need for skateboarding infrastructure, and the skateboarding community’s needs are often crowded out by other interest groups. Better integration of skateboarding infrastructure needs into planning processes through a comprehensive **ACT Skate Strategy** would help engage young people in relevant planning processes.

d) Skateboarding and skate park history

The ACT has a rich history of skateboarding and skatepark use. Skateparks such as Erindale Banks, Kambah U-pipe, Fadden Pines and Charnwood Bowl hold historical significance to the Australian and international skateboarding community, and are often visited by touring national and international skateboarding teams. Competitions such as Belco Bowl Jam have also kept the ACT on the international skateboarding map.

Note that the information below is by no means complete as it does not include the ACT’s early skateboarding history and culture, nor acknowledge the many different skateboarding groups and businesses that have contributed to our community, but we have included as much as we could.

Charnwood Bowl

Charnwood Bowl holds an important place in the history of skateboarding in Australia. Built in 1978, it quickly became a focal point for skateboarders, and played a crucial role in skateboarding's early growth and popularity in the ACT. While it was not officially recognised as Australia’s first skatepark, Charnwood Bowl came very close to earning that distinction, which rests with Albany Skatepark in Western Australia, built in 1976. Today, Charnwood Bowl remains an important symbol of the ACT’s rich skateboarding history. There are opportunities to upgrade Charnwood Bowl by integrating additional obstacles with the historical elements, like [Five Dock Skatepark](#) in Sydney.



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Kambah U-Pipe

Suggestions of decommissioning Kambah U-pipe in 2012 attracted [significant attention](#) in the Australian skateboarding community, including support from the national sporting body (Skateboard Australia) to preserve the facility. The ACT Government subsequently installed new fencing, anchor points and other safety measures.

Kambah U-pipe is not intended for inexperienced riders, so users and parents of younger children should exercise caution and use appropriate safety gear when riding it. When it does get skated, skateboarders spend a lot of effort cleaning and preparing the surface to make sure that it is as safe as possible before even attempting to ride it.

Kambah U-pipe is also a unique facility unlike any other in Australia. It attracts international professional skaters and BMX riders, and has featured in many videos and magazines over the years. Its construction is unique in that there is no 'flat bottom', which is why it is referred to as a U-pipe rather than a halfpipe, and it is the challenge of riding it that attracts the attention of professionals.

Erindale Banks

In 2017, CSA nominated the Erindale Brick Banks for entry in the ACT Heritage Register in response to its possible demolition due to the expansion of the neighbouring shopping centre. The CSA is yet to receive a final response on this nomination.

The Erindale Banks are the last remaining of many curved brick embankment structures that were built around the Erindale College and Library in the 1980's, and should be preserved for current and future generations. The CSA understands that they were built by local technical college students who were learning to construct curved brick surfaces. But by chance they are ideal and unique obstacles that could not be replicated in a purpose built skatepark, making them of huge importance to the Australian skateboarding community, and of architectural and historical significance more broadly.

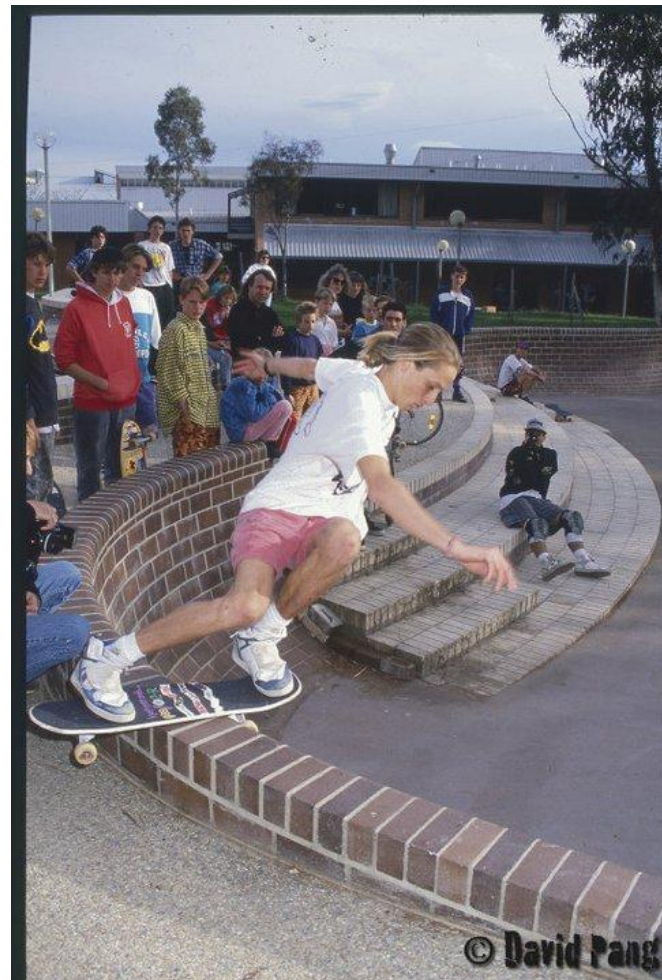
Because of their popularity as a skateboarding spot, the brick banks were converted into a skatepark in the early 1990's with the addition of modern concrete skatepark features. The ACT Government could make further additions and improve the newer obstacles around the brick banks.

The Erindale Banks are still visited today by many Australian and international professional skateboarders, beginning with a visit by the world famous Tony Hawk in 1988 (see photo below) and countless others over the years. The Erindale Banks are also the last remaining of the brick embankment structures in a larger set that contributed to the consistent design in the Erindale area throughout the 1980's and 90's, providing a glimpse into life at that time.

The Committee is invited to read more about the history of the Erindale Banks on [CSA's website](#).



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Belco Bowl Jam

Belco Bowl Jam is an iconic and historic skateboarding event that has garnered widespread recognition and acclaim over many years. This grassroots event, run by local ACT skateboarders, has been a prominent fixture in the Australian and international skateboarding community for an impressive 22 years. A growing number of skateboarders from around Australia and the world visit the ACT for Belco Bowl Jam each year, making a significant contribution to the local economy.

One of the notable aspects of Belco Bowl Jam is the huge volunteer effort that goes into maintaining and improving the bowl surface before the event. Each year, local skateboarders use their own resources to paint the bowl and undertake necessary maintenance so the bowl is competition-ready. This shows the deep passion and dedication of the ACT skateboarding community.

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Belco Bowl Jam has gained international coverage and acclaim in skateboarding media, putting the ACT on the map in the skateboarding world. Notably, [Thrasher Magazine](#) has covered the event since 2021, featuring videos that have been viewed hundreds of thousands of times. The CSA has helped to organise and promote Belco Bowl Jam in recent years, boosting its growth and reputation.

Belco Bowl Jam has also become a platform for showcasing the diverse and inclusive nature of Australian skateboarding. The event attracts renowned professional Australian and international skateboarders, with 4 Tokyo Olympians competing in this year's event alongside an Olympic commentator (see photo below). The event promotes gender inclusivity in skateboarding, with growing participation from women and gender-diverse skateboarders.

The Belco Bowl itself is another unique part of skateboarding history in that it is one of if not the only fully circular 'keyhole' bowl in Australia and certainly one of very few in the world. Its striking spider design also provides instant recognition in every skateboarding video in which it appears.

Belco Bowl Jam stands as a testament to the vibrant and dynamic nature of the ACT skateboarding community. It breaks the mould and showcases the ACT's capacity to host thrilling activities for young people. Its informal 'jam' format also differentiates it from rigorously structured skateboard competitions by focusing on enjoyment and inclusiveness. The event reflects the ACT's diverse and active community, challenges stereotypes and proves that the ACT is anything but dull.

While Belco Bowl Jam has grown exponentially in size and scope, it still relies on the dedicated efforts of a small group of volunteers who contribute their time and energy to make it a success.





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1997 Inquiry Into The Use of Skateboards And In-line Skates Near Shops

The Legislative Assembly previously considered matters relating to skateboarding in the ACT in the 1997 Standing Committee on Social Policy’s [Report on the Inquiry into the Use of Skateboards and In-line Skates Near Shops](#). This Inquiry was launched into a proposal to ban the use of skateboards and in-line skates within 10 metres of shops.

The then Committee did not recommend any restrictive legislation (particularly as the existing legislation restricting the use of bicycles near shops was never enforced and was later repealed), but instead recommended that an educative and cooperative approach be taken to address the concerns of ACT residents and business owners. The then Committee also noted that skateboarding could be promoted as a tourist attraction, and recommended that the ACT Government investigate the feasibility of providing additional skateboarding facilities.

e) The relationship with other cultural activities, e.g., music and visual art

Skateboarding is closely intertwined with other subcultures such as music and visual art. Locally produced skateboarding videos have gained international attention, while contributing to Australian skateboarding culture and promoting the ACT’s active and artistic community.

Skateboarding-based local businesses like Trilogy Skateboards and Church Public Service have played an integral role in fostering a sense of community and providing spaces for skateboarders to connect, socialise, and further their passion for skateboarding.

The CSA and ACT skateboarders more broadly also enjoy a positive relationship with other skatepark users and groups, like Back Bone BMX. We have worked with our friends at Back Bone BMX over the years to lobby the ACT Government for better maintenance and improved facilities, and thank them for their insights, contributions and passion.

The CSA has also participated in joint projects with local graffiti artists, like the ACT Government commissioned graffiti mural at Tuggeranong skatepark.

Belco Bowl Jam also incorporates a mix of skateboarding, performance art and music in the various mini-events that occur throughout the event weekend.

Skateboarding and skateboarders have also historically been leaders in setting various fashion and youth social trends, inspired films, books and art, and made huge contributions to youth culture since skateboarding’s beginnings in the 1950’s and 60’s.



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f) Any other related matters

As previously mentioned, CSA is volunteer-run and currently receives no government funding, largely relying on donations. While CSA enjoys a productive relationship with members across the Legislative Assembly, CSA welcomes any contributions from the ACT Government to its operations, particularly any support for Belco Bowl Jam as the event continues to grow in size and popularity. The CSA will apply for appropriate grant opportunities to help secure future events, and continue to reach out for help to address any issues affecting the ACT skateboarding community.

We are also available to contribute to any future ACT Government skateboarding planning and design projects, help resolve any issues relating to existing ACT facilities, and develop a comprehensive **ACT Skate Strategy**.

In Conclusion

The CSA thanks the Committee for considering our input into the current Inquiry. The ACT has a rich skateboarding history and huge potential to solidify its position as the go-to Australian skateboarding destination.

We look forward to working with the Committee and the ACT Government to implement a comprehensive **ACT Skate Strategy** and improve the accessibility, quality and maintenance of skateparks and skate-friendly spaces across the ACT.

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Attachment A – The Minister for Sport and Recreation’s Response to CSA’s Pre-Election Letter

**YVETTE
BERRY.**

DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

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Labor



Mr Tony Caruana
President
Canberra Skateboarding Association

By email: info@canberraskateboarding.org

Dear Mr Caruana

Thank you for your recent correspondence requesting the ACT Labor’s position on matters important to the Canberra Skateboarding Association and the wider community.

ACT Labor is committed to supporting our vibrant and growing community of skateboarders, alongside other extreme sports, here in Canberra.

Chief Minister Andrew Barr MLA and I were happy to join members of your Association on the weekend to announce that if re-elected ACT Labor will allocated \$500,000 to build a competition standard half-pipe at the Belconnen Skatepark. I also commit to work with you and other interested organisations on developing a plan for a skate-friendly Canberra.

As you noted, these commitments are in addition to the \$500,000 that the ACT Labor Government recently allocated of through the Commonwealth Government’s Local Roads and Community Infrastructure fund towards refurbishing the Belconnen and Woden skate parks.

Canberrans turned to the outdoors during the COVID-19 pandemic with record numbers of people walking, cycling and using our public open spaces to skate and ride. In the last four year the ACT Labor Government has committed \$30m of additional investment in footpath maintenance, cycling, and walking route upgrades and built 56km of new community paths constructed since 2017, with over 20km constructed in 2020 alone

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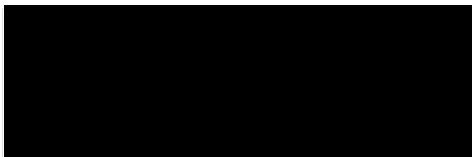


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You may also be interested to know that the ACT Labor Government has made it easier to keep up these habits by establishing a set of guidelines for the establishment of community-built pump tracks in our public spaces. These guidelines will be available soon.

A re-elected ACT Labor Government is committed to working with the Canberra Skateboarding Association to continue to provide the infrastructure and support the Canberra skateboarding community needs.

Yours sincerely



Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Sport and Recreation

12 October 2020

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