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| **ITEM 7.5** | **Development of a Skatepark at Terrey Hills Oval, Terrey Hills** |
| **REPORTING** **MANAGER** | **Executive Manager Parks and Reserves** |
| **TRIM file REF** | **2017/248653** |
| **ATTACHMENTS** | **NIL** |

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| **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** |

**PURPOSE**

To seek Council approval to proceed with the development of a skatepark at Terrey Hills Oval, Terrey Hills.

**SUMMARY**

Following the advocacy of a local student and his father, a Terrey Hills resident, which was supported by members of Council’s Implementation Advisory Group and the Terrey Hills Progress Association, Council staff have considered a proposal for a skatepark at Terrey Hills.

Council’s priority remains the development of the proposed Terrey Hills Oval Landscape Plan scheduled to be undertaken in 2019 to consider all uses of the site. However following meetings on site and consideration of options, a project is proposed that could see the construction of a skate park in the short term that won’t limit the options in developing a Landscape Plan. The project consists of building a skatepark using prefabricated skate elements on a concrete slab that would provide a great skatepark for the local community. Minimal rework will be required if an alternative site for the skatepark is ultimately identified as part of this Plan.

Council has resolved to allocate $200,000 each year for the coming four years, funded by the Council Merger Savings Fund, to develop youth friendly spaces across the Northern Beaches. It is proposed that the first project delivered by this fund is the Terrey Hills Oval Skatepark. This project would replace the proposal to spend this allocation at Lionel Watts this financial year as more work needs to be done to determine scope of the youth spaces and how they will relate to the proposed inclusive playground and synthetic sportsfield.

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| **RECOMMENDATION OF** **General Manager Environment & Infrastructure**  That Council:   1. Proceed with the development of a skatepark at Terrey Hills Oval 2. Allocate $200,000 from the Merger Savings Funded Youth Friendly Spaces Program for the project in 2017/2018. |

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| **REPORT** |

BACKGROUND

Terrey Hills Oval is 56 hectare park situated between Yulong Ave and Beltana Ave, Terrey Hills. Together with the adjacent Frank Beckman Reserve the site provides valuable open space, active recreational and environmental opportunities for the Terrey Hills and Duffys Forest community. Among the features of the site are two full size football fields, Terrey Hills Tennis Club, cricket nets, basketball court, large areas of remnant Duffys Forest, Terrey Hills Rugby Club and strong connectivity to Terrey Hills Shops and public transport.

There has been a gap in provision of skate or alternative youth active recreation spaces in Terrey Hills since the removal of the half pipe skate facility in the 2000s. The BMX track at JJ Melbourne Hills Reserve in Terrey Hills is an excellent facility, having recently been renewed by Council in collaboration with Manly Warringah BMX Club and has been recently awarded the State Titles for 2017. However it is considered that the site is too isolated from the major population centre of Terrey Hills to be an effective alternative youth facility.

Council is planning to undertake a Landscape Plan for Terrey Hills Oval and Frank Beckman Reserve in 2019 to identify a long term plan to develop the site to meet the needs of the community, increase its environmental value and maximise the sporting capacity of the site. One of the key features to be included in the Landscape Plan would be the provision of a new skatepark.

Based on the representations of a year five student from the local area, members of Council’s Implementation Advisory Group and the Terrey Hills Progress Association, the Administrator asked staff to investigate options for providing a shorter term facility at Terrey Hills as the suburb is isolated from any of Council’s other facilities the closest being Mona Vale Skatepark and Forestville Skatepark, both being approximately 11 km away respectively.

Council staff have met on site with the student’s father, identified options for a flexible solution that can be implemented in the shorter term, and recommend this for the approval of Council.

The project meets this immediate need without compromising the ability of the proposed Landscape Plan to deliver the best integrated approach to planning for the site. The project consists of building a skatepark using prefabricated skate elements on a concrete slab. These elements can be relocated if the Landscape Plan ultimately finds a more suitable position for a permanent skatepark or the area could be expanded on if the location is deemed appropriate for the long term home for the skate park.

Council has identified the location for the skate park as shown in Figure 1 below.

This location would involve minimal environmental impact, minimise the construction costs and minimise impact on existing users. The site will also offer excellent passive surveillance of the site from across the park and particularly the car park.

It is proposed that Council procure a reputable skateboard park builder to develop an acceptable design and then build a skatepark. The upper limit of the design and construction contract would be the $200,000 available through the Merger Savings Funded Youth Spaces Program.

**Figure 1: Potential locations for Terrey Hills Oval Skatepark.**



**CONSULTATION**

The project has been initiated by widespread community support from the Terrey Hills community for this type of project to be undertaken. This has involved Council receiving strong representations from the Terrey Hills Progress Association, the Council Implementation Advisory Group, and a well thought out submission by a year five student from the local area. If the project is approved Council would undertake further more targeted consultation with local residents, users of Terrey Hills Oval and local businesses.

Council would also form a design advisory group consisting of local users of the proposed skatepark and the oval and an experienced skater to help guide the development of the design brief and assist in the selection of the tenders.

**TIMING**

Project approval by Council: 8 August 2017

Meeting of design advisory group: September 2017

Finalisation of design and construction tender including design brief: October 2017

Engage contractor: November/December 2017

Works commence: January 2018

Works complete, weather permitting: March 2018

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The design and construction contract will be limited to a lump sum contract of $200,000.

**SOCIAL IMPACT**

The development of a skatepark at Terrey Hills Oval will provide tremendous recreational and social benefit for young people in the area who are disconnected from similar facilities at Forestville and Mona Vale.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

The environmental impact will be minimal as the proposed location of the facility is on an already heavily impacted area of the site, the project will not require tree removal and will use existing drainage infrastructure.