

Lismore Skatepark Factsheet

FAST FACTS:

Location

The 2300sqm skatepark is located next to Oakes Oval, corner of Dawson and Uralba Streets.

Project Timeline

Funding awarded December 2022, Concept Design December 2022 – August 2024, Construction September 2024 – June 2025, Opening scheduled for July 2025.

Community Consultation

Convic hosted two community workshops in 2023, with Council consulting extensively with local skaters and youth organisations throughout design and construction. The community have been advocating for this skatepark for many years.

Flood Resilience

A 400-millimetre layer of ballast rock beneath the concrete ensures water coming into the skatepark is going through that rock layer and out into the drains. Additionally, the overall design of the skatepark is built with flood resilience in mind. Optimising drainage, and utilising flood resistant materials.

Safety and Security

The location was selected in consultation with Richmond District Police for its natural surveillance and sight lines. The skatepark is designed for use during daylight hours, with sports lighting shutting off in stages at 10pm. The precinct will include CCTV cameras, sports lighting and ongoing activations to promote best use of the skatepark.

World class standards

Designed to host local, regional and national competitions. The design incorporates feedback from local skaters, as well as consultation with professional skaters, coaches and event organisers.

Expert design and construction

Developed by CONVIC, Australia's leading skatepark and youth space design firm, in collaboration with Lismore City Council and the Lismore community.

Funding

This \$3.9 million project is funded by the NSW Government through Round 2 of the Multi-Sport Community Facility Fund.

Features

Street and park sections with 33 obstacles. Suitable for all skill levels including a covered 1.2m high mini ramp through to a 2.8m high 'deep end' bowl. Complemented by a bouldering wall, shaded seating and pedestrian pathways.

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FOR THE COMMUNITY:

CONNECTION

This skatepark is designed for all abilities and ages, bringing skaters, bladers and bike riders to the Lismore CBD. With a range of features and greenspaces, providing a facility to develop skills, host events and connect in a socially inclusive environment where people from diverse backgrounds can come together.

ECONOMY

As a skatepark with a signature design, skaters will come to Lismore for the unique experiences and obstacles this facility offers. Welcoming additional visitors, through activations and events. Driving tourism and traffic through our CBD, benefiting local businesses and the broader community.

OPPORTUNITY

Skateboarding as a sport is rapidly gaining traction since its inclusion at the Olympics in 2020. This world-class facility will not only provide a training ground, but has capacity to host high profile events, bringing professional opportunities to skaters in Lismore. Raising the profile of Lismore as a welcoming place to visit, and bolstering Lismore's reputation for top-tier sporting facilities in regional NSW.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The skatepark will actively promote physical activity and outdoor recreation, to all ages and abilities. Transforming a previously underutilized space into a vibrant, safe and purpose-built environment, encouraging skating away from streets and other areas.

Providing a space for social interaction and participation in constructive activities and events, particularly for young people.



Remembering Travis Watson

Members of our community have campaigned for a skatepark of this standard for many years.

Including the late Travis Watson, who was an avid skater and a beloved member of the skate community, due to his mentorship and ongoing advocacy for the sport. The skatepark will include a rail paying tribute to Travis, with the design developed in consultation with key members of the local skate community, who were friends and associates of Travis.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Community Consultation

What steps were taken to engage and consult with the community?

Members of our community have campaigned for a skatepark of this standard for many years. In December 2021, Council commenced engagement to create a business case for the new Lismore Skatepark. Consultation continued since the funding announcement in December 2022 on all aspects of design, construction and activation of the skatepark, and has included:

Your Say Lismore page – with surveys, ideas board, ongoing consultation registration and project updates.

Lismore Youth Network – ongoing discussions regarding activation, safety and security, and opportunities for young people to be involved.

Workshops – facilitated by Convic in September 2023, with over 60 registrations.

Key Community Stakeholder Group – ongoing workshops, invitation to provide feedback on design, consistent involvement in opportunities, onsite inspections.

Key Project Stakeholder Group – fortnightly meetings with Council staff to provide feedback on design, construction and activation based on role requirements and community sentiment.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community – Discussions with Council's Aboriginal Advisory Group through design, and Ngulingah Local Aboriginal Land Council and Widjabul Wia-bal Gurrumbil Aboriginal Corporation through construction.

Disability Inclusion Advisory Group – Lismore Skatepark presented at meetings in 2023/24, with accessibility, carparking and safety raised for consideration.

Current Project web page – as featured on the Lismore City Council website showing monthly updates, concept designs and project information.

Skatepark Design

The overall design is based on the natural environment around Lismore. The 'Big Scrub' was used as inspiration for the colour scheme, and landscaping elements within the park. The obstacles, and layout including 'street' and 'park' sections were informed by feedback from the community and key stakeholders.

Are there a range of difficulty levels (i.e. beginner, intermediate, expert)?

The skatepark features street and park sections, with a variety of obstacles suited for all levels including a 1.2m covered mini ramp, hubbas, rails, quarter pipes and a 2.8m 'deep end' bowl.

Will there be any art at the Lismore Skatepark?

The 'Lismore Eye' will be installed. Reviews are currently underway for how we can utilise this obstacle to showcase local artworks in the future. 'Graphic overlay artwork' was considered in consultation with key community stakeholders for the vertical surfaces of the skatepark, to address graffiti concerns. However, it was determined that the skatepark will have a 'sealer' applied which protects surfaces and allows easier removal of graffiti.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Construction

When will the skatepark be open?

Construction commenced in September 2024 and is due to be finalised by July 2025. Funding was awarded in December 2022, followed by a period of detailed design and consultation before construction commenced.

Where was the funding sourced for this project?

In December 2022, \$3.9 million in funding was awarded for by the NSW Government through Round 2 of the Multi-Sport Community Facility Fund.

Who are the contractors and builders working on this project?

The skatepark was developed in collaboration with Australia's leading skatepark and youth space design and construction company, CONVIC, and Lismore City Council with input from our community.

Are there any plans for further developments at the Skatepark?

For visitor experience, other precinct features such as additional pathways, car parking, picnic facilities and seating are being considered as part of future funding applications.

Flood Resilience

Is the skatepark going to be able to withstand flooding?

The skatepark surface is concrete which can withstand being submerged in water. Beneath the concrete, a 400-millimeter layer of ballast rock has been placed to facilitate efficient water drainage. Any water entering the park will flow through this rock layer, directing it into the drainage system and preventing water accumulation.

Maintenance and Landscaping

How are defects and damages being managed?

Defects are being addressed by Convic throughout construction. A Maintenance Plan will be developed by Convic in consultation with Lismore City Council, to manage defects and damages moving forward to ensure safety of the facility.

Educational messaging and signage at the skatepark will showcase how to contact Council to report any damages, to ensure they can be remediated as soon as possible.

How is the overall maintenance and ongoing landscaping being funded?

As this is a newly handed-over project, no dedicated budget is currently available. However, it will be covered by the existing Open Spaces budget until a formal budget submission can be made in the following financial year.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Safety, Security & Accessibility

What is included to help skatepark users 'feel safe' and improve safety and security?

Safety has been considered through design of the skatepark and will continue to be prioritised through planned activation.

Territorial Re-enforcement: Consultation is underway with local businesses, youth organisations, event organisers and skate coaches to create 'guardianship' of the precinct through activities, business opportunities and events.

Surveillance: The location was selected in consultation with Richmond District Police for its natural surveillance and sight lines. The precinct will include CCTV cameras managed by LCC and DASH Security.

Access Control: Natural access control is already established with tree lines, existing landforms, drainage and building configurations. Bollards are being replaced as part of the current construction to improve this further.

Space/Activity Management: The skatepark is designed for use during daylight hours, with sports lighting shutting off in stages at 10pm. Limiting visibility for continued use of the space after hours. Regular checks of the skatepark will also be undertaken through the maintenance planning, ensuring a safe and usable facility.

How will emergencies be managed?

Signage directs skatepark users to dial 000 in times of emergency and includes the 'what three words' location marker to quote to emergency services. Emergency access points are included as part of the overall precinct, with the Lismore Base Hospital, Richmond District Police and Lismore Fire Station all within a 5-minute drive to the skatepark location.

What precinct features ensure it's an accessible and enjoyable experience for all users?

- A number of 'beginner' obstacles, such as the shaded mini ramp, are suitable for users with a range of abilities and mobilities.
- The footpaths are designed to be flat and wide, with various seating options available throughout.
- Accessible public toilets are available on the corner of Dawson Street, at entrance to the skatepark.
- Car parking is available on Dawson Street, and between Heaps and Humbley Oval, accessible via Uralba Street.
- Conditions of entry and important information will be available on signage at entry to the skatepark.
- Events and activations will be planned with accessibility in mind.
- Lismore Square and public transport services are less than 500m from the skatepark.
- Lismore CBD with associated food and beverage, shopping, experience and services is less than 500m from the skatepark, and footpath accessible.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Events

Consultation was undertaken by Convic through the design with professional skaters, coaches, and event organizers, including Olympic Skateboarding judge Renton Millar, to ensure that the skatepark is designed to attract and host competitions and training events, while also meeting the needs of our local community.

What are the schedule of events planned for opening?

An opening event is in the pipeline, with the date to be determined pending completion of construction. Council is working collaboratively with The Rumble skate team to build an event which will lean heavily on involvement with the Northern Rivers skate community and be complemented with some pro and am skaters from across the country.

What events are being planned for local skaters to participate in?

Council is working to secure a leg of a national skate competition in 2026 and 2027 but in the meantime will be seeking input from the community as to how to give local skaters 'ownership' of and pride in the precinct. The safety, success and care of the park needs to be built through a strong and positive relationship with all local skaters.

Council is working to establish opportunities for our Key Community Stakeholder Group and local skaters first entry to the new skatepark. Allowing them to get a shot at the precinct before it opens to the broader public. Giving all local skaters a chance to shine at the official opening events, having learned their lines in advance.

How can the local community be involved in events?

Skateboarding is all about community, Council's Events team welcomes input and collaboration from the skate community to host competitions, demos and even gigs if the opportunity and environment is appropriate. As events calendars are established, Council will provide information to the business community and organisations who service our community on how they can be involved. Including activations, sponsorships, marketing opportunities and more.

More Information

Visit Lismore City Council's website, under 'Current Projects' - Lismore Skatepark, or scan the QR code for details:



Contact Lismore City Council directly via **Phone:** 02 6625 0500 **Email:** council@lismore.nsw.gov.au