

**Tuross Head Progress Association Incorporated**  
**ABN 36038514293 Y11838-28**

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010

General Manager  
Eurobodalla Shire Council  
PO Box 99  
Moruya NSW 2537

THPA  
PO Box 3044  
Tuross Head NSW 2537

**Submission to the Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy.**

**Proposed Skateboarding facilities**

Dear Council,

The Tuross Head Progress Association would like to thank Eurobodalla Shire Council for acknowledging their response to the community recreation Survey and place 'skate able break out bays along cycle ways' as a recommended future facility for Tuross Head youth.

The Tuross Head youth enjoy a style of skateboarding that employs a longer board and as such facility needs differ from those skateboarders who are more interested in the smaller boards and the skills that can be learnt from facilities such as the new Broulee Skate bowl.

The idea of having several smaller "breakout bays" along the cycleway was presented by the Tuross Youth so that there would be an adjacent facility to most of the youth as the Tuross cycleway provides a lineal link to most residents.

The Tuross Head Youth Committee members are working on identifying the location and nature of the skate facilities it would like to see put in place adjacent to the shared pathway and these locations and designs will be provided to Council at a later date. All that is important at present is that Council acknowledge the desire of the Tuross Head youth to have such facilities and that Council encourage and support Tuross Youth in seeking grant funding and install these on Community lands.

It is understood that there would need to be specific public consultation regarding location and type with provisions set in place for the facilities to meet environmental and financial considerations. The Tuross Head progress Association Youth committee look forward to assisting Council in establishing these provisions.

In addition to the "Breakout Bays" the THPA would like to request that further skateboard facilities be added to the proposed half court basketball facility which is planned for the Kyla Sports Reserve precinct.

It is however of major concern that we are now following the recent press reports that sees the Durras Community losing its skating facility.

P26.... **Durras Skate Park** ▪ Current and projected community need and use does not justify continued allocation of funding.

In communication with the Durras Progress Association one of your Council officers stated

*Council is constantly under pressure from the community to provide facilities in all its small villages. So much so that if Council were to fund the replacement of Durras Skate Park, it would potentially strengthen the argument for like local communities that all small villages in the Shire should have a similar facility. This position is outside of Council's financial capabilities.*

The above statement is of major concern to this community as we are happy to establish a facility such as the one in Durras, built by the community for the community, however if Council's general ideology is that nothing should be built unless there is a future provision for funding replacement and repair made within Councils budget and that they believe there is no certainty of volunteers being able to fund drive or contribute when the time comes then we are left disillusioned and feel that, without Councils commitment to maintaining and replacing any new community facility the facility had best not be built in the first place.

Council staff advised that grant monies are readily obtainable for facilities such as RageCages (which have inbuilt skateboard components). If the Tuross Head Progress Association was to pursue seeking out this funding and the facility was built then, by Councils ideology, the facility would have to be financially self sustaining for maintenance and eventual replacement such as was given as the reasoning behind the proposed removal of two of the Tuross Head tennis courts.

In a correspondence between Council and the Durras Progress Association the following statement was made:

Council recognises that the skate park was a community project and that there is significant community ownership over the facility. Council also acknowledges that the Skate Park does not require significant ongoing funding, other than maintenance works which is identified through routine inspections throughout the year.

The facility has recently been inspected and is deemed to have 5 – 10 years life remaining. The intention of the recommendation in the draft strategy is that when the facility reaches the 'end of life' or requires significant investment to rectify safety or risk issues, Councils position will be that it is unable to justify the required funding to replace the facility and would instead recommend removal.

However, given the history of the facility if the community is willing to undertake a project similar to the initial establishment of the Skate Park to rebuild the facility when the time comes, this is something that Council would be willing to explore.

If the above statement is evidence of a possible model of mutual Council/community facility management then the Tuross Head community would like to support the installation of skateboard breakout bays along the cycleway at locations that are in keeping with the function, aesthetics and amenity of the shared pathway and to have additional skateboarding components incorporated into the youth facility to be located within the Kyla Sports Reserve precinct.

Yours sincerely  
Lei Parker  
Secretary THPA.