

### 3. PROHIBITION ON SKATEBOARDING

<b>Officer responsible</b> Director of Policy	<b>Author</b> Terence Moody, DDI 371-1834
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The purpose of this report is to consider a request for a prohibition on skateboarding from the proposed Sculpture Park at the Art Gallery in Worcester Boulevard.

#### INTRODUCTION

A deputation was received at the meeting of the Projects and Property Committee at its June meeting proposing the Council set up a skate facility outside the new art gallery. The Committee, while agreeing that an inner city skate facility would be popular with skaters, considered that the proposed site was not appropriate. At the Council meeting on 15 June 2001 it was recommended it be referred to the Parks and Recreation Committee for consideration. It is understood that that Committee has not yet considered the matter.

#### DISCUSSION

Provision exists within the Christchurch City Public Places and Signs Bylaw 1991 for the Council to prohibit the use of skateboards or roller blades in any public place as set out below.

#### 3. PLAYING AT GAMES

- (1) *Subject to clause 3(2), no person shall play at any game or ride in or upon any toboggan, cart, trolley, skateboard, roller blade, roller skate or similar device in any road or public place, in such a manner or at such a time as may cause damage to property owned by the Council or may cause annoyance, danger or inconvenience to residents or members of the public in the vicinity.*
- (2) *The Council may from time to time by resolution publicly notified in a newspaper circulating in the city prohibit the use of skateboards or roller blades in any public place or any part of a public place or any road or any part of a road.*
- (3) *The Council shall mark any such prohibited public place or road by erecting such signs, markings or notices as the Council sees fit.*
- (4) *No person shall use a skateboard or roller blade in any public place or road prohibited by the Council pursuant to sub-clause (2) of this clause.*

This power has only been used once to this date in relation to Victoria Square and there have proved to be major problems in enforcement of the prohibition. This limitation was advised to the Council at the time the bylaw was amended and subsequently at the time a Police requested change to the bylaw was sought to allow for infringement fees.

The Council decided in August 2000 that it would not amend the bylaw to permit the Police, using the provisions of the Transport Act 1998 to apply the infringement notice procedure by allowing for a lesser fee than the \$750 provided for in the Act. The Council resolved that consultation take place with skateboarders in regard to any proposed amendment, that a report on the Council's obligation for the provision of street skating facilities at Washington Reserve be prepared, and the provision of a street skating facility at an appropriate central city site be investigated.

Some consultation with representatives of skateboarders and the Youth Council have taken place but further discussions have not been progressed due to the delays in finalising the Washington Reserve Stage 2.

The resource consent for Stage 2 of the skate park at Washington Reserve, which will include street skating provisions, will shortly be proceeded with in line with Council decisions. It is understood this should be lodged early August. The Parks and Waterways Unit is currently examining possible central city sites for skateboarding.

#### CONCLUSIONS

At present there are a number of matters outstanding in relation to the skateboarding issue. The first is that Washington Reserve is not completed, particularly in relation to street skating provisions, but action is continuing. Some central city sites are being examined for skateboarding in the central city. There is still a major problem of enforcement of prohibitions, or indeed of persons not complying with other skateboarding bylaw provisions.

**Recommendation:**

1. That the schedule to the Christchurch City Public Places and Signs Bylaw 1991 be amended to prohibit the use of skateboards or roller blades in the new Art Gallery property, to be effective by the time the gallery is due for completion in 2003.
2. That clarification of providing skateboarding at Washington Reserve and any other proposed central city sites be resolved by 2003.