

# r Say

DEBATE

## Young people need somewhere to go

I refer to the letter by Paul Haege of 9/10/2019 "Skate ban welcome".

Paul Haege's assertions are flawed. The popularity of skateboarding is increasing — as evidenced by the fact that it makes its debut in the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Our sons enjoyed the freedom of skating while at the same time participating in football, athletics, tennis and basketball, including at state level.

We now have a 13-year-old granddaughter who enjoys the relaxation, social life, exercise, mental challenge and fresh air that comes with skating, away from electronic devices.

She also participates in netball, volley ball, softball and athletics including at state level.

One only has to tour Australia to witness the proliferation of skate parks.

The last thing youth need is the older generation inflicting their biases, cramping creativity and fun.

John O'Connor, Vaucluse

## Three years of misery over skate park row

Countless residents, not only within Woollahra Council precinct but also living on the city boundary, celebrated the decision to retain our green, London-style Rushcutters Bay parkland for all, not just a few indulged teenagers, wanting a skateboard park in a green parkland loved by many, for family picnics, walking the dog, exercise, sports events near the harbour and Vibe Hotel.

The disruption and cost to all has been a cause of concern for more than three years and two rejections by Woollahra Council.

Many councillors live nowhere close to our park, but pushed, we hear by Paddington Liberal branch.

Why, one wonders is Cr Marano again pushing this?

It is not for the local residents who have told him and his supporters it is the wrong location. Moore Park, providing parking and ambulance attendance, is considered a far superior location.

Furthermore, no one wants a hideous graffiti-splattered area with noise problems for those living adjacent to this hideous skateboard space.

Why? Who comes first?

Our hopes lie with the new mayor



The proposed skate park at Rushcutters Bay Park has divided the community.

and a wise council — unless they want to put it in Vaucluse or Rose Bay close to their apartments and homes for their plan.

The City fringe locals say No, No, No.

RE Hall,  
East Sydney

## Petition not enough to sway the Council

It is extraordinary that with over 1600 signatures on a petition objecting to Woollahra Municipal Council's plans to construct a skateboard facility on the iconic Crown Land of Rushcutters Bay Park, and despite the stated opinions of local State

member Gabrielle Upton, Federal member Dave Sharma, Former PM Malcolm Turnbull, Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock, and the Heritage Office's well-considered recommendation for State Heritage Listing, the Liberal-dominated Council is not so far retreating.

Hopefully, heritage minister, Don Harwin, will rectify this apparent dyslexic anomaly within the various Liberal Party ranks.

This does however raise the perennial question of whether the voting Australian public requires and can sensibly afford our three levels of government.

John Walton,  
Darling Point