

# NEWS RELEASE

## Skaters ramping up their lobbying for Skate Park

A group of young skaters are calling on the Gawler Council to rebuild their skate park in Princess Park, Gawler.

The Xavier and Trinity College years 8 and 9 students have formed an action group to gain community support to lobby the Council to ensure the park is re-built.

Ramps were recently removed from the skate park by the council after an inspection revealed extensive rusting and corrosion which council officers felt posed an unreasonable safety risk.

While the students understand and accept why the ramps had to be removed they are concerned that Council will not replace them.

To date, the students Corey Panagiotou, Cameron Mondello, Justin Shaw and Alex Devries Van Leeuwen have collected over 500 signatures on a petition calling on the Council to build a new skate park.

The action group sought the assistance of local State Member of Parliament Mr Tony Piccolo who has been mentoring them on the processes of local government and how they can get their case heard by Council.

The action group say that a proper skate park will help youth stay out of car parks and other places where they cause a nuisance.

Corey, 14, said we need to keep young people active and busy because they get into trouble when they have nothing to do.

Cameron, 14, believes a properly designed skate park could be a place for the whole family and not just young people.

“But you would need to provide toilet facilities as well” he said.

Alex, 13, stressed that skating is a very physical activity and encourage young people to be active and stay healthy.

“When youth have nothing to do they can get involved in graffiti and drinking which is not good for them or the community” said Alex.

Justin, , felt that the skate park could be relocated to a more central location that would attract families with younger children.

The action group has sent the petition to Council this week and hope that it will be received by the Council at its next meeting on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October.

So passionate are the boys about the skate park they have requested they be given permission for a deputation to address the Council at its meeting when the petition is received.

Mr Piccolo said the boys need to be congratulated for their initiative and their willingness to work hard for what they believe in.

“They are quite clear in their minds what the skating community wants”

“Their focus on building a family friendly park is to be commended “said Mr Piccolo.

Mr Piccolo said he has been meeting with the boys in his electorate office over the past few weeks teaching them how council works and the best way for them to get their message across.

“They have done all the work, all I have done is provide them with a few tips and guidance”