



W A V E R L E Y
COUNCIL

**OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEETING**

URGENT BUSINESS

7.00 PM, TUESDAY 9 OCTOBER 2018

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URGENT BUSINESS

6. Urgent Business

OC/6.1/18.10 Sculpture by the Sea 20182

REPORT
OC/6.1/18.10

Subject: Sculpture by the Sea 2018

TRIM No: A17/0595

Author: Dan Joannides, Acting Director, Waverley Renewal
Rachel Jenkin, Acting Director, Waverley Life

Director: Ross McLeod, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council provides guidance to the General Manager regarding:

1. The provision of an additional grant from Council's Small Grants program to provide a temporary transport service during Sculpture by the Sea.
2. The allocation of funding from parks operations budget to undertake temporary visual amenity improvement works in Marks Park.

1. Executive Summary

Sculpture by the Sea has grown to become one of Sydney's iconic events and recognised as a world class sculpture exhibition. Waverley Council has supported the event since its inception in 1997. As the visitation for the event has grown, Council officers have worked with event organisers to manage the impacts related to staging such a significant event within the local government area.

This year, a number of time sensitive issues have appeared resulting in several requests for funding being presented to Council in addition to the existing grant and operational costs already being met by Council. These additional requests for funding could be met from Council's existing budget; however, they would potentially result in other planned activities being delayed or in a reduction in the availability of grant funding. The General Manager is therefore seeking guidance from Councillors on a way forward.

2. Introduction/Background

Sculpture by the Sea has grown to become one of Sydney's iconic events and recognised as a world class sculpture exhibition. Waverley Council has supported the event since its inception in 1997. As the visitation for the event has grown, Council officers have worked with event organisers to successfully manage the impacts related to staging such a significant event within the LGA.

Sculpture by the Sea estimates they had 425,000 visitors in 2017 with 17% of participants being from the local area. Of the total participants, 24% were 55+ years of age. The event features over 100 sculptural works from Australian and International artists. In 2018 the event will take place from 18 October to 4 November encompassing three weekends within the exhibition period.

3. Relevant Council Resolutions

Nil.

4. Discussion

Existing financial and operational support

This following table provides an overview of the existing financial support provided by Council to Sculpture by the Sea including operational costs, a Small Grant and Community Grant and Mayor's Prize in support of the event.

Cost	\$ value
Traffic Control & Management	\$57,759
Communications & Signage	\$3,183
Digital Infrastructure	\$4,206
Community Grant	\$11,438
Small Grant – Tactile Tours	\$5,000
Mayor's Prize	\$5,000
Total	\$86,586

Table 1: Costs related to 2017 Sculpture by the Sea.

In addition to the above, Council also provides Sculpture by the Sea with a significant amount of in-kind support which is difficult to measure and provide costs estimates for. This support includes staffing from a number of Council teams including:

- Events management – assistance with event delivery.
- Traffic and transport – management of traffic control plans and daily traffic engineer inspection.
- Open spaces – maintenance and repairs.
- Resource recovery – waste removal.
- Parking operations – special event parking permits for residents and events vehicles.

Issue 1 – Temporary transport service

Sculpture by the Sea has requested that Council co-fund a temporary transport service between Tamarama and Bondi over the weekends that Sculpture by the Sea is operating. In recent years, this service has been delivered by a fleet of six passenger vehicles and drivers provided by a sponsor. As Sculpture by the Sea is no longer able to secure a sponsor, an alternative, more cost effective option has been identified to provide a service transporting a larger number of people at reduced frequency via mini-buses.

The temporary transport service would run between Tamarama and Bondi from the hours of 10 am until 5 pm on the following dates:

- 20 October 2018.
- 21 October 2018.
- 27 October 2018.
- 28 October 2018.
- 3 November 2018.
- 4 November 2018.

The service would be made up of two mini-buses driving a loop service between drop off areas at Tamarama Marine Drive, Tamarama and Notts Avenue, Bondi. With two vehicles in operation, it is estimated that a service will depart approximately every 15 minutes.

Patrons would be notified of the availability of the service via communication channels operated by Sculpture by the Sea, and lines would be co-ordinated by volunteer staff located on-site.

The provision of the service provides benefit to the community by way of encouraging visitors to use public transport rather than private vehicles and by enabling a service that enhances access to the event at peak times.

Due to the loss of a transport sponsor for the 2018 event, Sculpture by the Sea has asked Council to meet 50% of the costs. It is currently unclear whether Sculpture by the Sea would be able to provide the service this year without Council support.

Approximate cost to Council

The quote for temporary transport services provided by Sculpture by the Sea for the provision of two vehicles to deliver this service is \$4,050 + GST per vehicle (total of \$8,100 + GST).

A 50% breakdown of the direct financial cost would see Council providing \$4,050 + GST in support of the provision of this service.

The cost to Council would need to be funded as an additional grant through Council's Small Grants program, which would mean a reduction in the allocation of grant funding to other projects in this financial year. Council officers do not therefore support the request; however, Council may have a different view on priorities.

Issue 2 – Marks Park eastern embankment

The area is an eroded grass embankment 10 metres long that flows steeply down to the coastal walk to the east. The area had degraded from last year due to recent rain. It was inspected on 27 September 2018 by Council's Park Operations team and Council's Renewal Safety Partner. The Safety Partner undertook a risk assessment and recommended the installation of a stair between the coastal walk and Marks Park and isolating the embankment by fencing off the top and bottom of the embankment. Construction of the stair has commenced and will be completed shortly.

Sculpture by the Sea argues that the 'fencing of the embankment will create a significant reputational risk to the exhibition and therefore Waverley Council, and the fencing will not improve the visual amenity of the site, regardless of the exhibition.' Sculpture by the Sea proposes that the embankment be treated with coir log terracing with blow-on mulch and native plants, with no fencing. Council staff believe that fencing is still required to isolate the embankment and prevent persons from damaging or tripping on the new treatment. It is classified as a medium risk under the Risk Matrix evaluation undertaken by Council and fencing is necessary. Medium risks are considered acceptable, if all controls are in place.

Approximate cost to Council

Sculpture by the Sea is obtaining a quote for this treatment, and is seeking Council funding to cover the cost of the works. At the time of writing this report, no quote has been received by Council; however, it is expected to cost around \$20,000–25,000.

The treatment will only be a temporary solution to improve visual amenity and would have to be replaced with a more permanent installation.

The works could be funded from existing parks operations budget. However, this would mean a reduction in service in another park such as Bronte and Tamarama Parks. Council officers do not therefore support the request, although Council may have a different view on priorities.

Issue 3 – Sculpture at top of retaining wall

Concerns were also raised by Council officers about the proposed location of a sculpture adjacent to the sandstone retaining wall above the coastal walk stairs with a height of approximately six metres. The concern relates to the risk of injury from persons falling to the stairs below while viewing the sculpture. Sculpture by the Sea propose:

- Delineating rope and stanchion method to a height of one metre and at a distance of at least two metres from the sculpture and fall hazard in the immediate vicinity of the sculpture.
- Installation of 'Do Not Access' sign.
- Positioning of a site crew member during operating hours (9 am to 5 pm).

Persons falling to the stairs below is a high risk under the Risk Matrix and a fence is warranted. High risks are considered significant and must ensure all controls are in place.

Council officers have sought an independent review by StateCover who have confirmed that the solutions proposed by Sculpture by the Sea are lower in the hierarchy of controls than the engineering solution (i.e. the fence) and do not provide actual protection from falls.

The General Manager and senior staff have reviewed the above information and are not prepared to allow the area to be used without fencing. Staff have already begun construction work on the new fencing as part of their existing work program.

5. Financial impact statement/Timeframe/Consultation

The current approved budget for the 2018 Sculpture by the Sea is \$77,500, with the majority of these costs relating to signage, transport management and digital infrastructure within the event footprint.

In addition to the above resourcing commitment, Council has, in recent years, provided a Small Grant in support of access and inclusion, a community grant and a Mayor's Prize totalling approximately \$22,500.

The cost to Council for the provision of a temporary transport service will be \$4,050 plus GST. The cost to Council would need to be funded as an additional grant through Council's Small Grants program, which would mean a reduction in the allocation of grant funding to other projects in this financial year.

The cost to Council to undertake temporary visual amenity improvement works in Marks Park is estimated to cost around \$20,000–\$25,000. The works could be funded from existing parks operations budget; however, this would mean a reduction in service in another park.

6. Conclusion

Sculpture by the Sea has become an iconic cultural event in Sydney. Although the event has branched out, it is still completely synonymous with Waverley.

Significant effort is invested annually by Council to ensure the Sculpture by the Sea event is successfully delivered within the inherent site limitations, and that the event is suitably managed to balance the competing demands placed on the coastal environment, residents and visitors alike.

This additional request by Sculpture by the Sea for temporary transport arrangements represents a further step by Council to ensure equity of access and to the range of locals and visitors who enjoy the event annually.

7. Attachments

Nil.