

CM/6.4/19.11 Sculpture by the Sea and Marks Park Rehabilitation (A19/0768)**MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION**

Mover: Cr Masselos

That Council:

1. Supports, in principle, the Sculpture by the Sea proposal for additional landscaping works at Marks Park headland, including regrading adjacent to the ridgeline path, to maximise the sculpture placement potential for future events.
2. Officers prepare a design schema for the intended landscaping works and action its public exhibition prior to the Q2 budget amendment for Council approval in February to undertake these works.
3. Authorises, upon execution of a five-year licence agreement no later than 2 March 2020, to hold Sculpture by the Sea in Waverley, Council officers to undertake the additional landscaping works referred to in clause 1 above.
4. Defers any major post-Sculpture-by-the-Sea restoration works to coincide with these proposed additional landscaping works to minimise park closures and disruptions to residents.

Background

Sculpture by the Sea is a sculpture exhibition that takes place over 18 days from the end of October each year. The event has been running since 1997 and is categorised by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet as a Category B Hallmark Event. Sculptures are installed in Marks Park and along the Coastal Walk from Bondi Beach to Tamarama Beach.

Over the past several months, Council officers have been working with Sculpture by the Sea to develop a licence agreement that supports the operative provisions of the event. On 16 July 2019, Council endorsed the draft agreement and authorised the General Manager to finalise negotiations and execute the agreement, which occurred in October 2019. Additionally, Council resolved to offer Sculpture by the Sea a further five-year licence with an option for a further five years.

On 11 November, following this year's event, I met with Sculpture by the Sea representatives at Marks Park to discuss options for landscaping in the park at the headland, including regrading the area adjacent to the ridgeline path, that could improve the event in future years.

Council officers who attended the meeting advised that the proposed works can be undertaken before the 2020 event and that they would improve the layout and usage of the park. An adjustment to the 2019–20 budget is required in the Q2 budget review.

While relationships between Council and Sculpture by the Sea have been strained over the past few months, last week's meeting was positive, and Sculpture by the Sea has today provided a letter of intent to stage the event in Bondi in 2020, and for the following four years with an option to extend for a further five years. The letter outlines other matters that they are seeking assurance on regarding consultation on changes to the Coastal Walk and Marks Park, and elements of the licence agreement that can be addressed through negotiations on a new agreement.

Crs Goltsman and Wakefield were not present for the vote on this item.