

1. SOUTH BRIGHTON SCULPTURE PARK

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Corporate Plan Output: Regional Parks	

The purpose of this report is to obtain the approval of the Council to the installation of macrocarpa carvings at the South New Brighton Sculpture Park.

The South Brighton Sculpture Park has been a popular and interesting Marine Parade roadside feature for several years now. It was established in vegetated duneland on the seaward verge of the road reserve adjacent to the home of its proponent, and guardian, Bon Suter, of South Brighton.

The sculpture garden, fitting into the Council’s ‘Art in Parks’ policy, has enabled progressive on-site limestone sculpting by Bon Suter and groups of her students. The diverse range of evolving sculptures, in such a natural setting, have encouraged much public interest and enjoyment. Coastal parks staff have assisted the project by carrying out native landscaping of the area and roadside enhancements.

Apart from one neighbour concerned about noise and dust in the initial stages, there have been no other reported complaints or negative responses to the sculpture park.

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO INCLUDE CARVED WOODEN POSTS FOR SCULPTURE GARDEN AND TO SUPPLY MACROCARPA LOGS

Parks staff have received a request to install four carved wooden posts at the extremities of the sculpture garden. The applicants have suggested that it could be a millennium event for them. The carvings would have human multicultural themes.

The carvers are also requesting the use of logs, recently removed from Thomson Park, for the carvings. Logs are available at a length of three to four metres. These lengths would mean that when standing in the ground that the carvings would reach a maximum height of two metres tall.

The request comes from the same group of local enthusiasts including Bon Suter, Julie Tuihana, Karl, Maree, Grant, Michael, who are presently working on the stone sculptures.

STAFF COMMENTS

The natural timber carvings would seem to fit well in the natural environment. Logs are available and presently stored at Bottle Lake. Their use in such carvings would also meet the community aspiration of having the timber recovered from Thomson Park used for community projects.

The maximum height of two metres would mean that the carvings would not be too obtrusive or pose a safety hazard. Engineering advice would be taken on appropriate anchoring and foundation requirements. Minimal costs would be involved in transporting the logs and securing the completed carvings in position.

Recommendation: That the Council support the installation of four macrocarpa carvings at the South New Brighton Sculpture Park.