

## **6.1. MM01: Sculpture at Sawmillers 2021**

In 2010 Council gave local resident Elsa Atkin a grant to produce a sculpture exhibition in Sawmillers Reserve at McMahons Point. The exhibition, called Sculpture@Sawmillers, was very well received by local residents, resulting in Council providing funding for the event in 2014 and again in 2016. Sculpture@Sawmillers grew over the three exhibitions from a weekend event to a 10-day exhibition which was supported by a large group of local volunteers keen to support arts and cultural events.

Ms Atkin recently approached me to see whether Council would fund the event again for September or October 2021. She is proposing a similar scale of the exhibition to 2016, with between 50 and 70 sculptures on display. The exhibition would run for 10 to 14 days.

Ms Atkin has requested a \$70,000 grant which would cover \$12,000 for prizes and all costs associated with staging the event including production, curation, promotion and a small event launch. Sponsorship would be sought for additional prizes.

Council's 2020 Customer Satisfaction Survey showed resident satisfaction with the range of arts and cultural events has decreased since 2016. I am confident that there is an appetite within our community for a high-quality art exhibition like Sculpture@Sawmillers and that Ms Atkin has the proven track record, energy and commitment to deliver the exhibition.

If Council were to support the event, we would need to provide funding in this financial year. This has not been included in the 2020/21 Operational Plan. With some of Council's annual events potentially not going ahead due to COVID-19, it may be possible to include the proposed sculpture exhibition.

### **I therefore recommend:**

**1. THAT** Council staff provide a report to the November Council Meeting in respect to the proposed Sculpture Exhibition and capacity to incorporate it within Council's overall event program.

**COUNCILLOR JILLY GIBSON  
MAYOR**