

## 11.3 Offer of Donation of Art - Gallery Forecourt Sculpture

REPORT BY THE MANAGER, COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES  
TO 17 MARCH 2021 ORDINARY MEETING  
GOV400088, REC800010, REC800003, REC800021

### RECOMMENDATION

#### That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Manager, Community & Cultural Services on the Offer of Donation of Art - Gallery Forecourt Sculpture; and**
2. **accept the offer of the donation of the sculpture, 'Encounter' by John Fitzmaurice.**

### Executive summary

This report seeks to inform Council of an offer of a donation of a sculpture that has been made to Council. The offer of donation from works exhibited at the 2020 Sculptures in the Garden event held annually is made by Gerald and Kay Norton-Knight on behalf of Sculptures in the Garden Inc and Rosby Wines. The intent is that the work be installed at the forecourt of the new Mudgee Regional Art Gallery alongside the Market Street entrance.

### Disclosure of Interest

Nil.

### Detailed report

In late January 2021, an approach was made to Council in relation to the donation of a large outdoor sculpture, 'Encounter' by Central Coast sculptor, John Fitzmaurice from Gerald and Kay Norton-Knight on behalf of Rosby Wines. Images of the proposed gift are attached to this report. Mr and Mrs Norton-Knight indicated that it was their preference that the work be installed as a statement piece at the Mudgee Regional Art Gallery.

Over recent years, Rosby Wines have partnered with Council for the major acquisition prize from the annual Sculptures in the Garden event. These works are commonly installed along the Lawson Park Sculpture Walk which is now intended on being directed from Lawson Park, alongside Walkers Oval and then up to the Regional Gallery at 90 Market Street.

The offer of the sculpture is a generous one. The sale price at the 2020 exhibition listed the work for sale at \$48,000. The offer has also been discussed with Council's Cultural Development Committee who are supportive of acceptance of the donation. There was, however, discussion about whether the gift was strictly conditional on being installed within the forecourt site, or whether Council could use its discretion to locate the sculpture where it deems fit, both immediately and in the long term (if relocation is considered). In accordance with Council's Art Collection Policy, gifts of art are discouraged if they are made conditionally. That policy, however, is limited to works displayed or stored indoors. There is no such explicit stipulation within the Public Art Policy, although there is also no wording to imply otherwise. In the circumstances, however, the Cultural Development Committee recommends that the gift only be accepted unconditionally.

## Community Plan implications

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Looking After Our Community</b>
Goal	Meet the diverse needs of the community and create a sense of belonging
Strategy	Support arts and cultural development across the Region

## Strategic implications

### Council Strategies

Council's Public Art Plan discusses a public art plan that engages with the community and adds value to infrastructure and attractions.

### Council Policies

Council's Art Collection Policy (for works displayed or stored indoors) states that conditional gifts are to be discouraged. There is no such stipulation within Council's Public Art Policy (relating to works displayed or installed at external locations) although logic would have it that a similar stipulation is implicit within that document. The Public Art Policy will be reviewed and updated shortly and this will be one of the recommended amendments.

### Legislation

Not Applicable.

## Financial implications

There will be some costs associated with transporting the artwork from Strikes Lane to Mudgee, as well as installation costs. These items can be covered through the current Sculpture budget. Further costs will be associated with the cleaning and maintenance of the work and this can be covered by the Building Maintenance and Sculpture Maintenance budgets, respectively.

## Associated Risks

Council's Art Collection Policy (for works displayed or stored indoors) states that conditional gifts are to be discouraged. There is no such stipulation within Council's Public Art Policy (relating to works displayed or installed at external locations) although logic would have it that a similar stipulation is implicit within that document. The Public Art Policy will be reviewed and updated shortly and this will be one of the recommended amendments.

FIONA SHEARMAN  
MANAGER, COMMUNITY & CULTURAL  
SERVICES

SIMON JONES  
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

26 February 2021

*Attachments:* 1. Images - Encounter by John Fitzmaurice - Proposed gift to gallery - January 2021.

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM  
GENERAL MANAGER





