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Sculpture in Alison Hartman Gardens a public safety risk

A public art sculpture in Alison Hartman Gardens made from the original Albany Town Jetty has become a risk to public safety and will be removed.

A safety fence was placed around the structure today after it was found on inspection to be unstable and moved from its original location. The jetty timbers which form part of the sculpture are also rotten.

The City of Albany is now making arrangements to remove the sculpture from the park and store it with a view to restoring it and possibly relocating it if feasible.

Chief Executive Officer Andrew Sharpe said the City was aware of the strong connection the sculpture has to the community through the old jetty, but public safety had to be a priority.

“We don’t want the sculpture to fall over and injure anyone and unfortunately due to the state of decay we have no other choice but to remove the sculpture,” Mr Sharpe said.

“It does have historic links to Albany and because of this we will store it and investigate whether it is able to be restored and reused in future.”

The sculpture was erected in the park in 1989 to reflect the role of shipping and agriculture in the early development of the region, using more than century-old timbers from the original town jetty and parts of old machinery.

It met significant community opposition during construction including a petition to council from 3000 residents requesting its removal.

“Years of exposure to the elements has taken its toll on the sculpture, in particular the very old timbers which form a large part of the structure,” Mr Sharpe said. “The City will consider integrating future public art within the City Centre aligned to a new public art policy that is under development.”

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