

5 October 2018



Australian Institute of Architects

Ms Anne Arnold
Chair
Heritage Council of WA
Locked Bag 2506
PERTH WA 6001

Dear Ms Arnold

CENTRAL PARK REFURBISHMENT AND BRIAN MCKAY ARTWORK

The Australian Institute of Architects is the peak body for the architecture profession in Australia. It works to improve our built environment by promoting quality, responsible, sustainable design. The Institute also aims to enhance the cultural, environmental and economic well-being of the community by advancing contemporary practice and the professional capability of architects and advocating the value of architecture.

We take this opportunity to place on the record, the Institute's support for retaining the Brian McKay murals in the Central Park building, amidst rumours that they will be destroyed in a planned refurbishment.

Central Park was designed by one of Western Australia's most prominent architectural practices, Forbes and Fitzhardinge. At the time of its completion, it created the city's first private open park, some of the highest quality and most enduring office accommodation and uniquely integrated very fine artwork as part of its interior. The building remains a skyline landmark.

From early in the project procurement, prominent Perth Artist Brain McKay was engaged to work on five major art pieces in the ground floor lobby. McKay worked closely with the architects and successfully incorporated his art by etching and colouring on aluminium panels. The work was McKay's greatest achievement and it is an example of art and architecture working together as one.

Collectively, the building, park and artwork represent an important development in office construction in the city which arguably has not been bettered.

We respectfully request that the Heritage Council do all that it can to help protect the murals and the original intent of the project. We should be delighted to assist further in any way possible.

Yours sincerely

SUZANNE HUNT FRAIA
PRESIDENT WESTERN AUSTRALIA