**MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday 2 May 2025
**PERTH LOCALS TO HOST PEACEFUL PICNIC PROTEST TO SAVE CITY’S PUBLIC ART**

Date: Friday 9 May 2025
Time: 11:00am – 1:00pm
Location: Stirling Gardens, Perth CBD

Perth residents and arts advocates will gather in Stirling Gardens on Saturday 10 May for a peaceful public protest and community picnic in response to the City of Perth’s failure to protect and preserve the city’s cultural legacy.

The event - dubbed “The Obelisk Rocks” - invites the public to bring a picnic blanket, lunch, and a football-sized rock (WA geological specimen) to build Andy Goldsworthy-inspired mini Ore Obelisks, honouring the work of late City Architect Paul Ritter.

The original *Ore Obelisk -* a significant work of public art symbolising the mineral wealth that built modern Perth - was quietly removed by the City of Perth in 2021. Despite widespread concern from heritage experts, artists, and the broader public, the City of Perth has yet to commit to reinstating the work.

“This is about the stories that shape our city and demanding that public money be spent transparently and wisely,” said Felicity Johnston, Curator and Save the Kebab campaigner.

The peaceful protest comes as frustration grows around the City’s recent decisions on public art—including the controversial installation of a mass-produced 'Boonji Spaceman' sculpture in a highly sensitive heritage location.

Locals are encouraged to show up, build a symbolic obelisk, and make their voices heard.

**WHAT:**
Community picnic protest to call for reinstatement of The *Ore Obelisk* and protection of Perth’s public art legacy

**WHEN:**
Friday 9 May, 11:00am–1:00pm

**WHERE:**
Stirling Gardens (near the former Ore Obelisk site), Perth

**WHAT TO BRING:**

* A football-sized rock or stone (to build a mini obelisk)
* A picnic and a blanket
* Friends, family, and a sense of civic pride

**ENDS**

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