



September 2026

Public Art Installation Expression of Interest

Watson Street Interchange Upgrade

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Victoria and their connections to land, waters and community.

We deliver projects that touch Country across Victoria and pay our respects to the spirit and passion of Traditional Custodians and to the ongoing living culture of Aboriginal people.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who work with us as we seek to grow in our understanding, engagement and partnerships.

CALLING ALL CREATIVES

Opportunity

The Watson Street Interchange Upgrade (WSIU) project team invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from artists to develop and deliver a public artwork as part of the project's legacy.

The artwork will celebrate the project's lasting contribution to the community while creating a meaningful visual landmark for residents and visitors. Following community consultation, the selected theme for the artwork is "Flora & Fauna", highlighting the natural environment that makes Wallan unique, including local plants, trees, birds and wildlife. This theme could celebrate the connection between the community and the surrounding landscape.

Project Background

The Watson Street Interchange Upgrade will improve access, ease congestion, and make it simpler and safer to move into and around Wallan. As part of this work, the project is creating a lasting community benefit that reflects Wallan's identity, landscape and community spirit.

A new pedestrian and cyclist rest area will be constructed near Watson Street, on the eastern side of the interchange, alongside the upgraded shared walking and cycling path. It will provide a new place for the community to pause and enjoy the area while improving local connections through Wallan.

This new space will include a permanent public art installation, interpretive signage, and seating for people to stop, rest and enjoy the area. The artwork forms part of the project's planning and legacy commitments, including requirements agreed with Mitchell Shire Council. It will help deliver a lasting community benefit at the new rest area while reflecting the local identity, landscape and community feedback gathered during consultation.

The location has been carefully selected to:

- provide good visibility and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists
- support safety and long-term maintenance
- minimise environmental impacts
- integrate with the new interchange infrastructure
- align with feedback from the Department of Transport and Planning and Mitchell Shire Council.

Information on the Watson Street Interchange Upgrade and legacy rest area is available here:
<https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/roads/watson-street-interchange/legacy>

Location

The artwork is to be installed within the proposed rest area, on the eastern side of the interchange, alongside the upgraded shared walking and cycling path. Refer to Figure 1, 2 and 3.

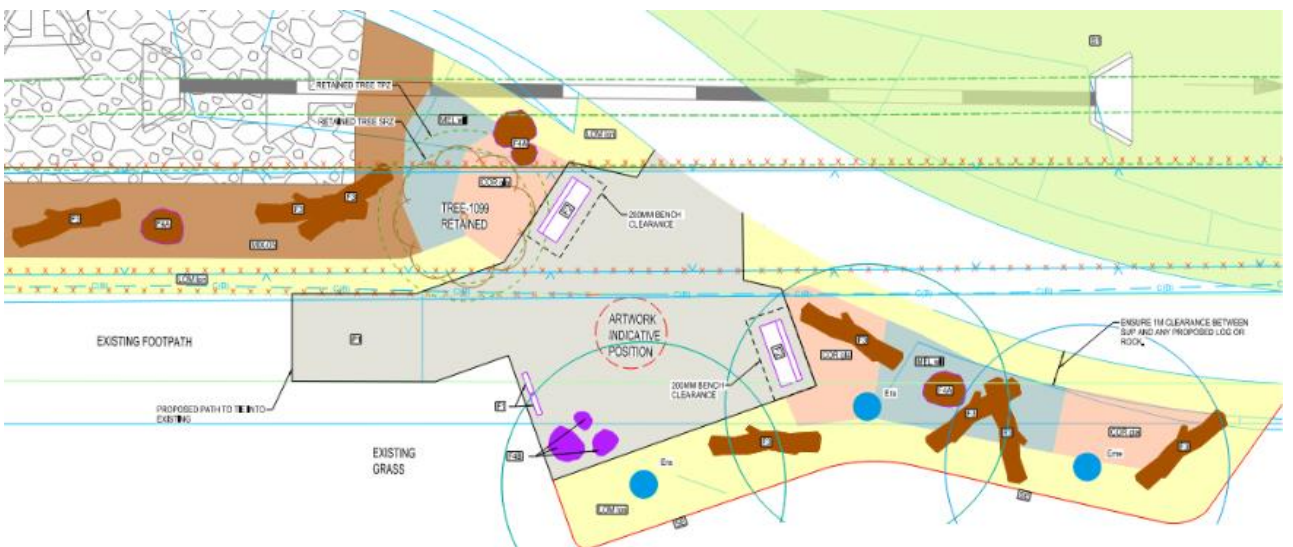
Figure 1 - Location of Rest Area, east of the Hume Fwy



Figure 2 - Location of proposed rest area



Figure 3 - Draft design of rest area including position of artwork



Theme

The artwork theme of “Flora & Fauna” was chosen by the community through consultation (Appendix B).

Artists are encouraged to explore:

- Indigenous and native plant species of the region
- Local wildlife and ecosystems
- Connections between people and the natural environment
- Environmental resilience, regeneration and growth
- The changing landscape and future of the region
- Interpretations of biodiversity, habitat and place

Artists may take either a literal or abstract approach to the theme.

Artwork Objectives

The artwork should:

- Reflect the Native Flora & Fauna theme in a creative and engaging way
- Create a lasting legacy for the community
- Be visually appealing and appropriate to the site
- Demonstrate durability and **minimal maintenance requirements**
- Consider accessibility, safety and longevity
- Foster a sense of local pride and connection

Artworks considered may include sculptural elements, painted elements and/or incorporation of hard landscaping surface treatments.

Design Specification

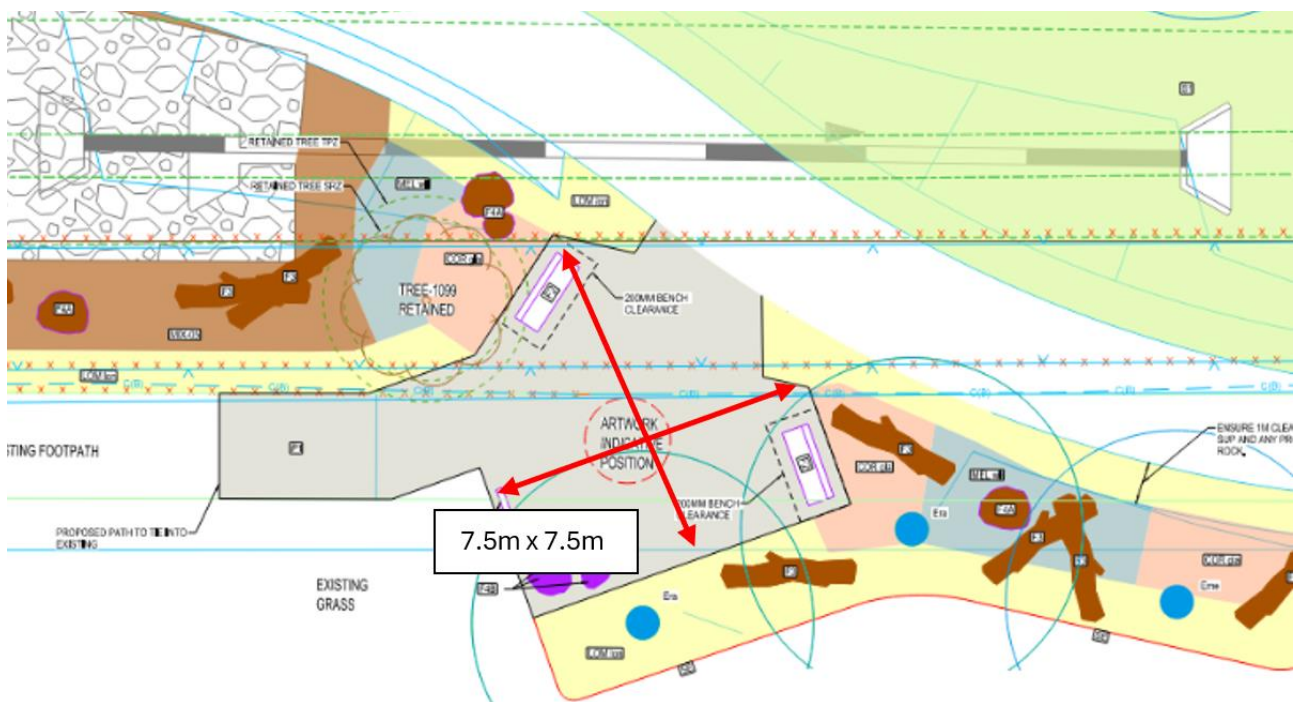
The artwork must:

- Have a maximum height dimension of 4m, with length and width dimensions to be commensurate of the space (see Figure 4) and appropriate for the proposed use of the area by pedestrians and cyclists;
- Be designed to prevent climbing as far as reasonably practicable;
- Be designed to avoid finger and head entrapment;
- Use low maintenance, durable and vandal resistant materials with a reasonably expected design life of 25 years for structural elements, and 10 years for surface treatments, paints and coatings;
- Have a non-sacrificial anti-graffiti coating applied to all natural, painted or powder coated surfaces;
- Be structurally sound (structural engineering certification may be requested during the design phase)
- Be designed in such a way that it will not confuse, distract, mislead or dazzle drivers due to colouring, illumination or reflectivity;

- Not have an image or an element of an image which replicate or imitates traffic control devices (e.g. red, green or yellow lighting, red circles or octagons, crosses, triangles, green arrows etc);
- Be designed in such a way that it will not appear as an instruction to the drivers.
- Not include any nudity, profanity, offensive images or language, political or any images which may be considered inappropriate for viewing by the general public.
- The artwork must not contain sharp edges, protrusions, unstable elements, loose components, trip hazards or reflective, illuminated or moving elements that could create a risk for pedestrians, cyclists, maintenance workers or road users.

The selection panel may, in its absolute discretion, exclude any design or application if it does not comply these requirements.

Figure 4 - Dimensions of rest area space



Budget

The upper limit cost of the artwork is \$50,000.00 including GST (\$45,454 excluding GST). Applicants are required to submit a cost estimate that demonstrates how the artwork can be delivered within this budget.

Applicants must clearly identify any assumptions, exclusions or dependencies in their cost estimate. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, the artist's price must include all costs required to design, fabricate, deliver and install the artwork, excluding only those items expressly stated by the project team as being provided by others. The project team may reject or seek clarification on any cost estimate that is incomplete, unrealistic or relies on unapproved exclusions.

The budget should cover all project costs, including but not limited to:

- Artist fees
- Design development, including:
 - Concept design, including presentation to assessment panel

- Adjustments for comments by stakeholders on concept design (assume up to two (2) rounds of comments)
- Final Design
- Materials and fabrication
- Engineering and certifications (if required)
- Transportation and delivery
- Installation (excluding any foundation required)
- Insurance
- Project management
- Contingency costs
- Attendance at celebration event, potential photo or video footage (interview, installation)
- Any coordination discussions and meetings throughout the design development and installation. Assume one (1) concept design presentation, one (1) other design meetings and one (1) meeting for installation/logistics.
- Costs that may be associated with mentoring

Selected applicant/s may be asked to provide a more detailed cost breakdown or to confirm the submitted cost breakdown during concept development.

If required, the WSIU team will assist with traffic management for the installation and for any footing that may be required for the artwork.

Eligibility

The WSIU project is inviting applications from all artists that are:

- Residents of Victoria
- Over the age of 18 at the time of submission

Applications from artists of all backgrounds are welcome, including individuals and artist collectives.

Applicants should demonstrate experience delivering public art, sculpture, landscape-integrated artwork or other relevant projects of a similar scale, budget and timeline.

Availability for Mentorship

WSIU team have engaged with Wurundjeri Elders who have indicated there may be emerging Wurundjeri artists who are interested in being mentored by an experienced artist to give opportunity to upskill and gain exposure to new mediums. If appropriate, the successful artist in this application may be requested to be available to share their experience as a mentor while developing this artwork.

A mentor arrangement may include:

- sharing design development processes
- attendance at a small number of workshops, observation or shadowing opportunities
- reviewing concepts with an emerging artist
- providing advice and feedback during the artwork development period.

For pricing, please assume mentorship entails 15 hours of dedicated mentor-mentee time, which may be broken up into the various activities above.

Timeline

See below Table 1 for Indicative timeline for artwork development and installation.

Table 1 - Indicative Timeline

MILESTONE	DATE
Stage 1 - Expression of Interest	
Public EOI opens	Monday 14 September 2026
EOI closes	11:59pm on Sunday 27 September 2026
Stage 2 - Contract Signing and Design Development	
Selected artist/s notified	Early-October 2026
Artist contract signed, including finalisation of quote	Mid-October 2026
Concept development presentation to panel and submission of draft design	End-October 2026
Comments on draft design (up to two rounds)	Early-November 2026
Final Design	Late-November 2026
Stage 3 - Fabrication, Installation and Opening	
Fabrication	November 2026 to February 2026
Art installation	Prior to March 2027
Celebration event	April 2027

Submission Requirements

Applicants are to provide:

- Artist CV and artist statement (up to 1 page)
- Portfolio of relevant examples of previous work which may include links to digital portfolios and/or website (up to 5 examples, including budget of projects)
- Brief written response (up to 2 pages) outlining:
 - Why you are interested in this opportunity
 - Your proposed approach to the Flora & Fauna theme
 - How your proposal will achieve *Artwork Objectives*, *Design Specification* (including material selection), *Timeline* and *Availability for Mentorship*
 - Agreement to *Appendix A - Terms and Conditions*
 - Cost estimate for the works, covering all items in *Budget*
 - Contact details including name, email address and phone number

Note: **detailed concept designs are not required at the EOI stage**

Format of submissions can be in PDF, word or email, and can include digital images.

Please submit applications and supporting material via email to contact@bigbuild.vic.gov.au with subject "WSIU Legacy Art EOI Submission". Email size including attachments must be less than 25MB.

Expressions of Interest submissions are required by **11:59pm on Sunday 27 September 2026**. Late submissions may be deemed ineligible at the discretion of the WSIU team and Assessment Panel.

Evaluation Criteria

Where multiple suitable submissions are received, a selection panel will choose an artist to develop the final design and carry out the works.

Submissions will be assessed against the below criteria:

- 1 All non-negotiable requirements addressed, including:
 - a all items included in Artworks Objectives
 - b all items included in Design Specification
 - c agreement to Appendix A - Terms and Conditions
 - d ability to achieve installation deadline of March 2027 (Table 1)
 - e proposal within cost as defined in Budget
- 2 Artistic merit and creativity of the proposal
- 3 Strength of alignment with theme and Artwork Objectives
- 4 Artist connection to Wallan, the surrounding region and/or Wurundjeri Country
- 5 Value for money (scale, quality, finish)
- 6 Demonstrated experience and capability (previous work examples)

Applications from artists of all backgrounds are welcome, including individuals and artist collectives. Preference will be given to Wurundjeri and First Nation artists.

Selection as the preferred artist does not constitute final approval of the artwork. The final artwork design, materials, installation method, footings, maintenance requirements and location must be accepted by the project team and may require review by Mitchell Shire Council, DTP, the relevant asset owner, the Superintendent and other technical advisers before fabrication or installation proceeds.