GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

Expression of Interest

Public Art Project (Identified)

CARSS PARK POOL, CARSS PARK

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Acknowledgement of Country

Georges River Council acknowledges the Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of all lands, waters and sky in the Georges River area. Council recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as an integral part of the Georges River community and values their social and cultural contributions. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who live, work and meet on these lands.

Accessibility

Applicants are welcome to contact the Public Arts Specialist to guide them through the process of applying to ensure that all applicants have a good understanding of the EOI and an equitable opportunity in applying.

If you require this information in a format that is accessible to you (such as Auslan, Easy English and large print), please contact Marsha Canning, Public Arts Specialist, between 10.00am and 4.00pm Monday – Friday, on (02) 9330 6444 or museumgallery@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au

Overview

Georges River Council aspires for public art to be an everyday experience and frequently incorporates art into new parks and facilities as a way of telling local stories and building sense of place and community identity.

Georges River Council is seeking Expressions of Interest for the development of a permanent public artwork as part of the Carss Park Pool Project. The Carss Park Pool Project will deliver a modern, outdoor, eight lane, 50 metre swimming pool with a swim wall, a 20 x 10 metre Learn to Swim pool and ancillary facilities that provide a safe, fit for purpose swimming facility for the local community.

The NSW Office of Sport (OOS) is leading the development of the new pool on behalf of the NSW Government and Georges River Council. The project is supported by Council, State and Federal funding. The construction of the new pool will be undertaken by ADCO Constructions.

Statement of Business Ethics

Council is committed to conducting business in a sound an ethical manner. Responding Organisations and individuals **must** read and familiarise themselves with Council's Statement of Business Ethics provide on Councils website by clicking on the link provided below:

Georges River Council Statement of Business Ethics

Consultants/artists are encouraged to review the following documents prior to applying:

- Georges River Council Community Strategic Plan
- Georges River Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy 2025-2030

- Create Georges River (Cultural Strategy)
- Georges River Council Public Art Policy
- Open Space, Recreation and Community Facilities Strategy

Project Scope

The Carss Park Pool Public Art Project aims to reflect the significant Aboriginal Heritage of the Georges River area and contribute to our community's understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

The successful artist is required to design, fabricate and install a permanent sculptural artwork as a statement piece for Carss Park Pool that responds to the history, geography, and/or use of the site.

Carss Bush Park is a regionally significant destination that supports both Council's major events program and a wide range of community recreation activities. The park is also the home of Council's annual Yarn Up event, which celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and provides a space for open and meaningful conversations.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community has identified the need to increase the visibility of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture within the Georges River area (Action 1.7 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy). With its connection to the Georges River, high visitation and accessible public setting, Carss Bush Park presents a unique opportunity to create a permanent and impactful recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories and cultures.

The successful artist is to provide a detailed design outlining materials, size and specifications. Georges River Council will coordinate with the artist and the pool builder for the installation and lighting of the artwork.

Bidjigal artists are strongly encouraged to apply, however this EOI is open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

Aboriginal History of the Site

Bidjigal Elder and Traditional Owner Aunty Barb Simms has generously shared stories and knowledge of the area. The Bidjigal people have cared, nurtured, and lived along the banks of the Georges River for tens of thousands of years. They were the first oyster farmers within the mangroves of the Georges River. They were the first fishers, who fished with spears made from the stems of the grass tree and gymea lilies. The women fished from bark canoes with campfires inside them for cooking the catch. They were the nurturers, birthers and storytellers.

Through yarns about this area, Aunty Barb has highlighted some meaningful things to her, and the Bidjigal people.

- The importance of storytelling and the passing on of generational knowledge, and acknowledging Elders

- The story of Gurawal, the whale, passing through this area
- The Georges River as a significant food source, with the abundance of fish, crab, saltwater eels (bara) and oysters (bithigas).
- The tools used in daily life, made from the land such as boomerangs made from ‘the knee’ of the mangrove tree.

To hear more from Aunty Barb and her connection to Country, listen to her storyteller video.

Artwork Site Location and Specifications

The sculpture must be located between the carpark and the pool entry, situated in the landscaped space within the grounds of Carss Park Pool, located on Carwar Avenue. Architectural, Landscape and Survey Plans for the site are accessible through NSW Planning Portal.

The artwork is required to be permanent and safe in all outdoor weather conditions. The final design is required to have engineering certification for the artwork, supporting structures and foundations. The work must also be suitable for a public space, and it must not have sharp edges, finger entrapments or encourage climbing. The artwork must have a 12-month workmanship warranty and product guarantee on welds, artworks materials and finishes, and any surface treatments. The artwork must include an anti-graffiti treatment.

The successful artist will be required to coordinate the structural engineering requirements of their artwork with the pool builder during the concept design finalisation stage. The cost of engineering certification is to be included by the artist in the allocated project budget.

An appropriate footing for the artwork will be provided as part of the pool project to the successful artist at nil cost.

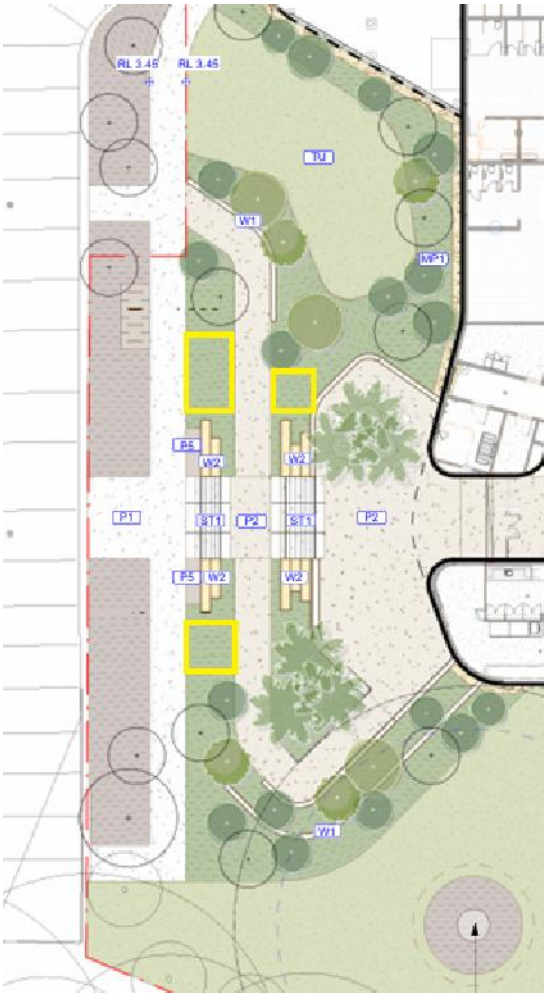
A floodlight connection point or similar will also be provided as part of the pool project to the successful artist, at nil cost.

The footpaths, pavement and the building façade are not within the scope of this project. The yellow boxes within the images below represent the indicative locations of the artwork installation.

The scale of the proposed artwork (including its height, width, depth and weight) is to be appropriate for the nominated locations.

Site context of Carss Park Pool.

Carss Park Pool - View from front steps. The pool building has been designed with reference to traditional Aboriginal wind protection shelters, featuring a curved design to protect visitors from the South West winds.



Potential site locations for the artwork from NSW Planning Portal, as indicated by yellow boxes.

Carss Park Pool – View from the carpark.

Potential site locations within the context of the entrance, noting a clear line of sight for pool entrance and signage.

Carss Park Pool – Aerial from the bay.

Project Schedule

Expressions of Interest open	Monday 12 October 2026
Expressions of Interest close	**Midnight, Sunday 1 November 2026**
Shortlisted candidate/s notified	COB, Friday 13 November 2026
Site visit with Council staff and consultation with Traditional Custodians and the pool builder	Week of 16 November 2026
Shortlisted artist concept designs due	Midnight, Sunday 6 December 2026
Successful artist notified by	COB, Friday 18 December 2026
Concept design finalised in consultation / coordination with the pool builder	COB, Friday 29 January 2027
Finalised concept approved by selection panel	End of February 2027
Fabrication and installation	September 2027

Consultation

Shortlisted artists will be required to attend a site visit with Georges River Council staff, and to consult with Bidjigal Traditional Custodians and the pool builder to develop their concept. Georges River Council staff will support artists in connecting with Bidjigal Traditional Custodians to discuss artwork concepts in more detail.

If an artist's work includes a songline (imagery that shares meaning to sites and stories), Georges River Council requires the artist to notify Council of this and provide confirmation of appropriate permission/s to use this in the artist's work. Consent from Traditional Custodians must be sought to ensure knowledge and culture can be shared in the commissioned artwork.

Budget

Artists are requested to submit a detailed budget with their Expression of Interest for the creation and installation of their work. The entire budget for the project must include artist fees (including but not limited to: concept, design development and specification, coordination meeting with Council and pool builder, management of manufacture/fabrication and installation), materials, engineering certification and all production/fabrication, installation site attendance, transportation/travel, and installation costs of the artwork.

A concept design fee of $3,000 will be paid to all shortlisted artists asked to further develop their initial proposal.

The project has an indicative budget of **$90,000** exclusive of GST.

Application and Selection Process

Eligibility

- Hold a valid Australian Business Number (ABN) for a registered entity.
- Identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, with demonstrated connection to Country, culture, community, and cultural practice. Applicants may be asked to provide a short-written statement that includes:
    - Their Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identity

    - Their family lineage,
    - Their involvement in community, such as participation in cultural events, organisations, or relationships with Elders
- Be a permanent resident of Australia.
- Have an account with an Australian financial institution.
- Be 18 years old or older.

Stage 1

Artists are invited to submit an Expression of Interest via Smartygrants. The assessment panel will include Georges River Council Staff and members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee. Artists will be required to provide the following information in their application/s:

- Artist statement (max 200 words)
- Provide a written concept statement (max 400 words, reference selection criteria)
- Provide a written statement on technical feasibility of design and install (max 400 words)
- Short statement outlining connection to Country, culture, community, and cultural practice
- Detailed budget and indicative timeframe for completion of the project
- CV (max 2 x A4 pages per artist)
- A portfolio of relevant previous work (submitted as PDF or JPG, up to 5MB)
- Please note: No detailed concept drawings are required at this stage

Artists who submit an EOI for this project will be kept on file for a period of up to 24 months and may be considered for future public art opportunities that may arise.

Stage 2

From the received Expression of Interest applications, up to three artists will be shortlisted to develop a proposed concept design for the public artworks. Shortlisted artists will be required to consult with Traditional Custodians before submitted their concept design.

Stage 3

Based on the quality and appropriateness of the concept proposal, a successful artist will be chosen by the selection panel. The artist will then finalise the concept design for the artwork in consultation / coordination with Council and the pool builder. Following approval of the concept by Council, the artist will fabricate and install the artwork.

Selection criteria

Expressions of Interest in Stage 1 and concept designs in Stage 2 will be assessed against the following criteria that has been shaped by the Georges River Public Art Policy:

- Bidjigal artist or an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artist who has close ties with the Georges River Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and/or willing to work in collaboration with Georges River Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- Reflects excellence in contemporary art practice and standards of high quality
- Presents creative, original, and innovative ideas
- Appropriateness to the context of the project brief
- Technical feasibility and ability to successfully realise the proposal/work

- Site specific design that enhances the liveability and distinctiveness of our Local Government Area (LGA)
- Project budget and timeline

Insurance and risk management

The successful artist is required to hold current Public Liability Insurance of $20,000,000. Any additional insurance and risk management requirements will be discussed with the successful artist.

Successful Artists will be required to:

- Liaise with Georges River Council staff as required through development, installation, and display of the project.
- Consult with Bidjigal Traditional Custodians in the development of their concept design.
- Supply a maintenance plan for their work, in the unlikely event of damage, vandalism, or environmental/weather impact.
- Act in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct and Statement of Business Ethics.
- Provide all requested information and complete all tasks/ projects in a timely manner, in accordance with any timelines or deliverable dates associated with the EOI and commission, if successful.

Further information

Please contact Marsha Canning, Public Arts Specialist, for further information, on (02) 9330 6444 or museumgallery@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au