



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE  
GARGARRO BOTANIC GARDEN ART PROJECT  
FEBRUARY 2025

**ARTISTS BRIEF**

## **Background**

Gargarro Botanic Garden Ltd (CBG) has received a grant of \$30,000 from the Shire of Campaspe to fund a piece of public artwork, which will be on permanent display in the Gargarro Regional Botanic Garden.

Artists who have a strong connection to the Kaiela (Goulburn River), Yakoia (Campaspe River) and Dungala (Murray River) regions, are invited to submit Expressions of Interest. If you live, work or play in this area, we would love you to apply. First Nations artists are highly encouraged to apply.

## **Background**

Girgarre is a small rural community located in the Shire of Campaspe, a half hour drive from Echuca. The Gargarro Regional Botanic Garden is a visionary and ambitious project being driven by the local community. The first stage of the garden opened to the public in May 2023.

Acclaimed landscape architect Taylor Cullity Lethlean (TCL) completed a Masterplan for the garden in 2013. Implementation of the Masterplan will see an open parkland area and five large sensory gardens established. Construction of the first stage has included a striking soundshell and amphitheatre, the parkland area, an ephemeral waterway, lookout tower and the first of the sensory gardens, the SEE garden. Later stages will include the SMELL, TASTE, TOUCH and LISTEN gardens.

Adjoining the botanic garden is the Gargarro Botanic Garden Café, a bespoke two storey building which opened to the public in March 2023. It is estimated that 35,000 visitors attend the precinct annually.

## **Project Context**

The Expression of Interest, shortlisting and selection process will be managed by the Foundry Arts Space (The Foundry), based in Echuca/Moama.

The Artwork should speak to the botanic garden and the aspirations held for it, and or to Country, paying homage to the district's First Nations peoples heritage.

Gargarro is an Australian native garden, the project has provided a new direction for Girgarre and is a source of great pride for the local

community. It is also a place the regional community gathers for social interaction or quiet reflection.

The First Nations people knew the vast plain that stretches south from the Girgarre township as Gargarro, so it is a name with cultural significance.

The design of the garden reflects the patchwork nature of Girgarre's agricultural hinterland, linear tree plantings, and the square mile network intersected by irrigation canals. The ephemeral waterway replicates the meandering nature of the Kaiela (Goulburn River), which once flowed through the district.

Gargarro Botanic Gardens will provide up to \$2,100 to support the provision of concept sketches and design plans from a maximum of three shortlisted Artists.

## **Parameters**

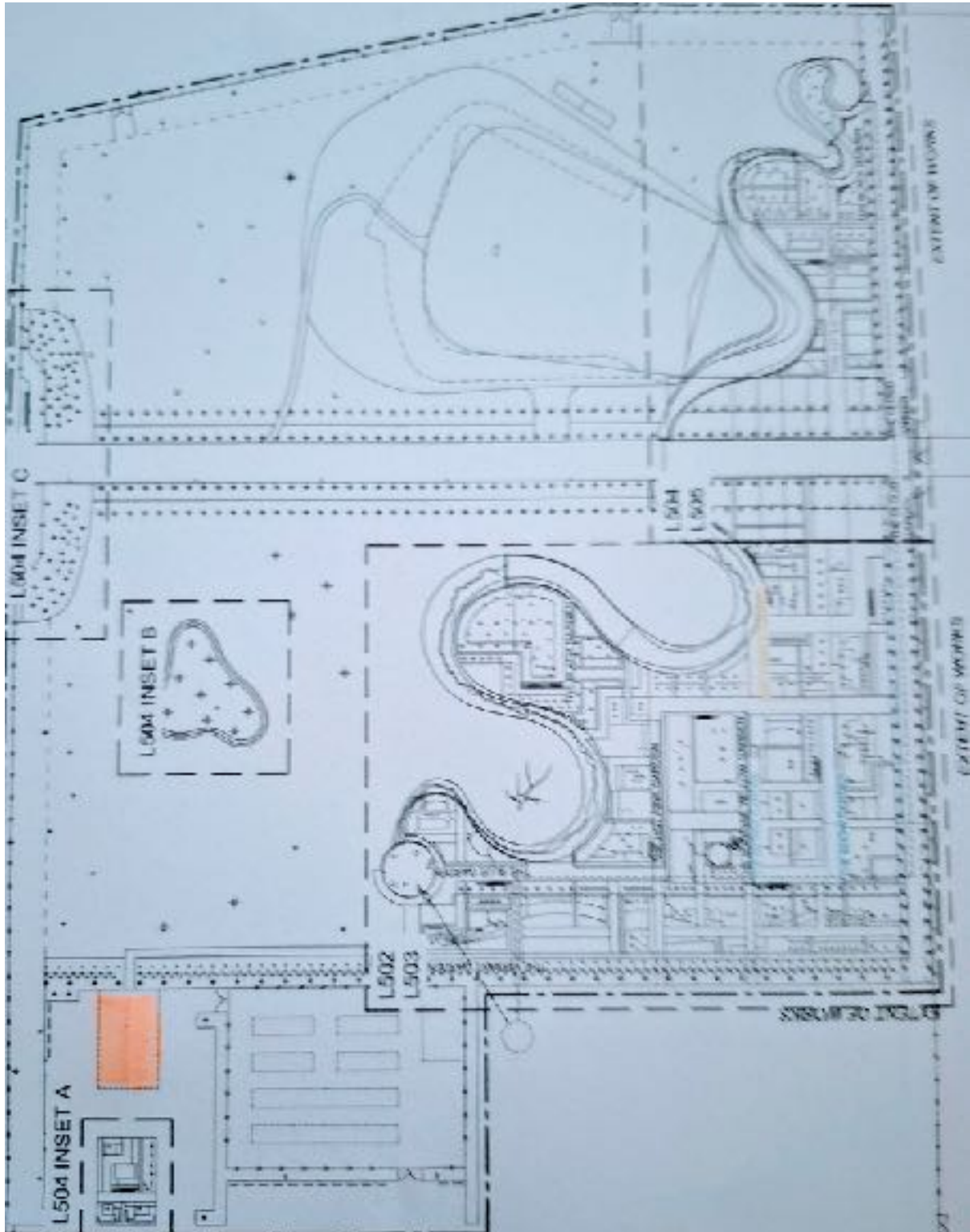
The Artwork should be:

- Three dimensional.
- In a format and materials suitable for an outdoor public space, requiring little ongoing maintenance.
- A scale that will have an impact on visitors.
- Crafted from quality materials.

The exact location of the Artwork within the botanic garden will be negotiated with the Artist. It is anticipated that the greatest impact will be achieved if this location is within sight of the Gargarro Botanic Garden Café, which is marked in orange on the accompanying plan.

## **Publicity**

The project will be promoted through Campaspe Shire Council and The Foundry Arts Spaces tourism and communications strategies, including websites, social media and media advertising. The successful artist grants Gargarro Botanic Garden permission to use any images or existing copy for promotion of the project. The successful artist may use images of the artwork for their own purposes, crediting GBG.



**Artist Responsibilities**

The responsibilities of the Successful Artist include

- Completion and installation the Artwork by Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
- Supply of a full design proposal and engineers report for both the artwork structure and footings.
- Liaise with GBG and Campaspe Shire to ensure the installation meets all compliance measures.
- Ensure that all costs associated with these responsibilities are budgeted for within the Artist fee.

## **Key Dates**

The key dates for the Expression of Interest in 2025 are outlined below.

- Artist Brief released to public on Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup>
- Expression of Interest opens on Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Expression of Interest closes on Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup>
- Notification of short-listed artists on Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup>
- Notification of successful artist Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup>
- Artwork completed and installed by Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup>
- Public Launch to be advised.

## **Artist Fee**

The Artist fee for the commissioned work is \$30,000 (excludes GST). The artist fee is inclusive of all costs associated with the final delivery and installation of the Artwork, including all design work, manufacturing and engineering requirements.

## **EOI Submission**

The aim of the EOI is to enable the Committee to assess the following items:

- The artist's connection to the local region.
- The artist's genre, originality and general inventiveness as evidenced by previous works and commissions.

- The artist's ability to complete the work on schedule and on budget.
- The artist's vision for the completed artwork or pieces of art.

## **Proposal and Support Material**

The EOI submission must include:

- A brief statement, no more than 700 words addressing:
  - how you will meet the Project Context.
  - how you will meet the Artists Responsibilities.
  - your creative vision for this public artwork.
  - materials you would like to work with.
- Details of your connection to the local region.
- Quality Examples of previous works or commissions (maximum ten images, with appropriate captions).
- Your artist CV and Bio, no longer than two pages OR if working in a collective, a group CV, no longer than three pages in total. Two professional references.

The EOI must be no more than eight pages in length and include the above details. Please submit your document in PDF format electronically to The Foundry website, [www.thefoundryartsspace.com.au](http://www.thefoundryartsspace.com.au)

Contact for further information and/or queries should be submitted to:

Judi Lawler

The Foundry Arts Space Inc.

13-17 Murray Esp. Echuca, 3564

[thefoundry@emai.org.au](mailto:thefoundry@emai.org.au)

0417 109 488