



City of Ipswich

Public Art Opportunities – First Nations Artists

Ipswich City Council (council) is seeking expressions of interest (EOIs) from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and designers with a strong connection to Tulumur/Ipswich, to be considered for the design of new public artworks across two distinct sites.

Following the review of EOI applications, a concept design fee of \$2,000.00 (+GST) will be paid to three shortlisted artists for each opportunity and a \$20,000.00 (+GST) commissioning budget will be offered to each successful artist/s to support the development of artwork designs. Please note this is a design-only commission. Fabrication and installation will be delivered by the broader construction project teams.

No public art experience is necessary, and support is available to assist artists where required. This stage requires only your expression of interest - **please do not send concept designs.**

SUBMISSION DETAILS

EOIs due: 25 October 2026

EOIs must be submitted on the online form, and questions include:

- Artist CV (max 2 pages)
- Artist biography (max 150 words)
- Up to 5 images of previous work or online portfolio link (previous public art not required)
- Your connection to Tulumur/Ipswich
- Which opportunities you would like to express interest in (you can select all).

Assessment Criteria

An external panel of experts, our Public Art Advisory Group (PAAG), selected project team members and relevant stakeholders will assess artist's submissions against the following criteria:

- Strength of your artistic practice
- Prior artworks relevance to the project brief
- Connection to Tulumur/Ipswich.

To discuss your ideas, or other enquiries:

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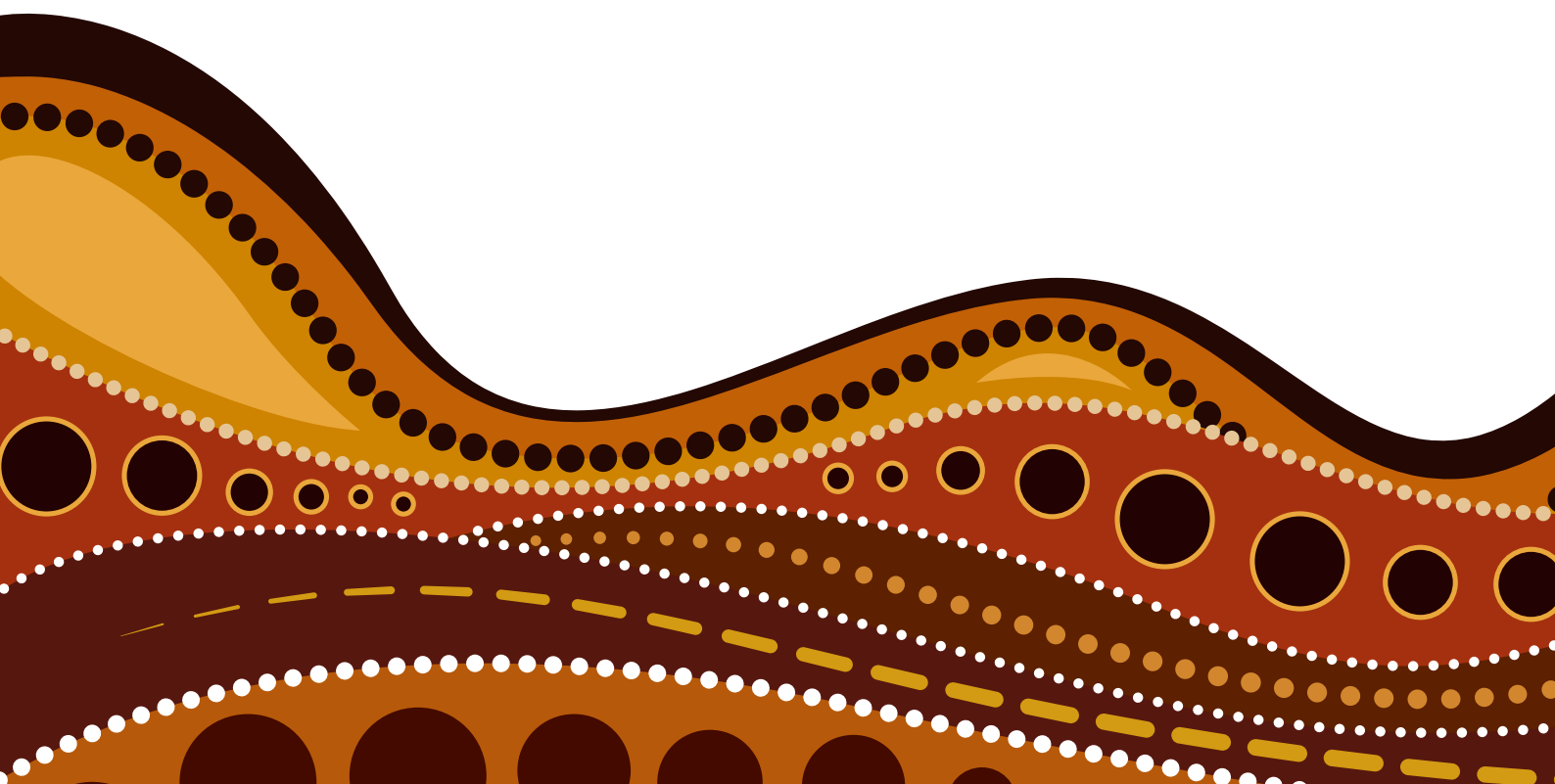


ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Ipswich City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners, the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul peoples of the Yugara/Yagara Language Group, as custodians of the land and waters we share. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, as the keepers of the traditions, customs, cultures and stories of proud peoples.

KEY DATES

	1. NIRWG	2. WRSME
EOIs open	2 October 2026	2 October 2026
EOIs close	25 October 2026	25 October 2026
Artists shortlisted	30 October 2026	30 October 2026
Site visit (optional) to support successful artist's clear vision of the site	3 November 2026	5 November 2026
Concept designs due	6 December 2026	6 December 2026
Commission awarded	December 2026	December 2026
Detailed design due	February 2027	February 2027
Final artwork files due	March 2027	March 2027
Practical completion of artwork *(installation by others)	October 2027	TBC
Practical completion of whole project	December 2027	TBC



1. NORTH IPSWICH RESERVE WESTERN GRANDSTAND UPGRADE (NIRWG)



There is one artwork opportunity on this site for integrated designs across ground plane surfaces throughout the precinct. These include the creation of 2D designs for concrete sandblasting at the grandstand entrance, food court area and corporate/players entrance.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

North Ipswich Reserve is one of Ipswich's major sporting and entertainment precincts. Council is committed to transforming the precinct into a best-in-class regional venue, enhancing the quality of entertainment and event experiences for the community. As part of this commitment, council has undertaken a range of early planning and community engagement activities to help inform the project direction.

The first stage of the redevelopment will involve constructing a new grandstand to a contemporary standard, providing increased seating capacity and significantly improving amenity for patrons and event operators. To accompany this stage, council invites First Nations artists to contribute to the site through the development of site-specific designs to engage the community through recognition of Country and First Nations storytelling.

At present, North Ipswich Reserve is classified as a park. As part of the proposed upgrades, council intends to formally designate the site as a Major Sport, Recreation and Entertainment Facility, as defined under the [Ipswich City Plan](#). This designation reflects the venue's role in hosting large-scale events, including major sporting, recreational, conference and entertainment activities.

CREATIVE RESPONSE

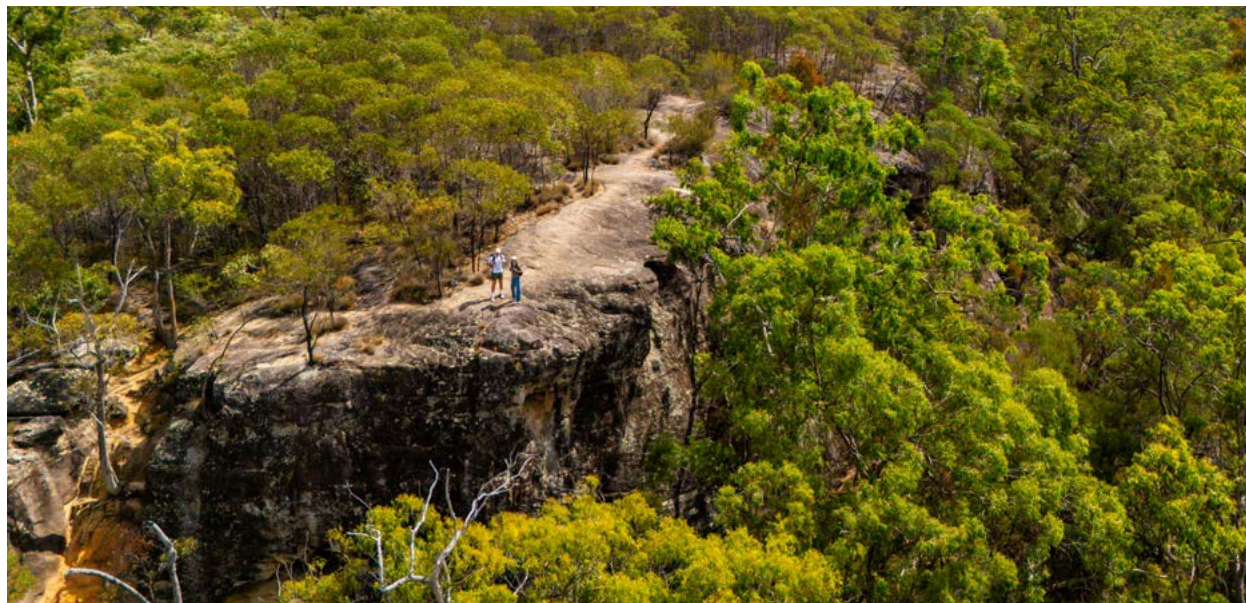
To enhance council's plan to elevate this site, public art will add meaningful cultural value, supporting a rich visitor experience. In a multi-use sport and entertainment setting, it supports use beyond major events by adding interest, atmosphere and cultural value to public spaces. It helps to create a destination that encourages repeat visitation.

In support of First Nations storytelling, designs that reflect the Country upon which the site rests will be well received. The successful artist will be encouraged to develop artwork based on themes outlined by First Nations engagement previously conducted by the project team. These will draw on natural and cultural connections, helping to express and strengthen the identity of Tulumur/Ipswich.

Central to these themes is the Ngararar/Bremer River, located south of the site, a significant waterway that serves as a foundational symbol of Country. The artist may also consider subtle, non-literal references to the Traditional Owner groups' totem animals (the sand goanna, green tree frog and brown snake). Native flora important to the region and this site may also provide inspiration for artwork designs.

The site also holds deep significance within the local community as a long-standing and much-loved sports reserve, and as the home of the Ipswich Jets Rugby League Club. Its strong association with local sporting culture, combined with its broader connections to the State heritage-listed Woolen Mills, the Ipswich Railway Workshops and Ipswich Central's celebrated heritage character, provides a rich context for public art that reflects both community pride and place-based identity.

2. WHITE ROCK – SPRING MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION ESTATE – PAPERBARK FLATS DAY USE AREA UPGRADE (WRSMCE)



There are two artwork opportunities for this site, both requiring integrated designs across two-dimensional surfaces. These are:

- 1) 2D designs for laser-cut shelter roof and sides and,**
- 2) sandblasted concrete designs in various locations across the site.**

The successful artist for each opportunity will provide designs to be manufactured and installed by the construction tenderer.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

White Rock – Spring Mountain Conservation Estate (WRSMCE), 20 minutes' drive to the southeast of Ipswich, is on the traditional lands of the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul Peoples of the Yugara/Yagara Language Group. It provides over 2,500 hectares of regionally significant bushland featuring extensive forested ridges, escarpments and valleys with a spectacular array of flora and wildlife species.

Nugum/Boogun (White Rock monolith) is a Women's business site, however, the wider WRSMCE has shared areas for Men and Women. The site includes significant features such as caves, rock shelters, cavities, smoke signalling sites, lookouts, pathways and waterways.

The Paperbark Flats Day Use area provides the northern access to the estate at the end of School Road in Redbank Plains and includes toilets, picnic facilities and horse float parking.

The overall objective for the project is to create a larger day use area to cater for increased patronage and become the main entry and focal point to the estate. The demand for nature-based recreation is increasing with population growth, as communities aspire to engage in outdoor physical exercise and become more immersed in natural environments.

CREATIVE RESPONSE

These artworks seek to create a meaningful and contemporary First Nations artwork that celebrates Country. The design will acknowledge the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul peoples, by drawing inspiration from the site's natural and cultural environment, including local bushland, native flora and fauna, and the stories embedded within the landscape.

Designs that explore the First Nations stories connected to site will be particularly well received. These may reference the Women's business connected to ceremonies and rituals, the smoke signalling sites, or the significant pathways evidenced through archaeological finds. Within the area, food plant and resources abound; quinine bush for medicine, narrow-leaved ironbark for joining tools to their handles, tall ground berry for food, and creek mat rush (*Lomandra*) for basketry. There are also two grandmother trees, a Tallowwood and a Forest Red Gum, which hold deep cultural significance. A significant species in this estate is the uncommon but magnificent Splendid Hibiscus (*Hibiscus splendens*), which has edible seeds, flowers and leaves. WRSMCE also provides habitat for the powerful owl, brush-tailed wallaby and the short-beaked echidna. These may provide inspiration for artists interested in exploring the native flora and fauna in the area.

The site presents an opportunity to create a place of discovery and connection for a broad audience to foster a deeper understanding of the cultural and environmental significance of the area. Through thoughtful storytelling and interpretation, the artwork can create ongoing teaching moments that strengthen appreciation and respect for Country.



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