



GATEWAY SCULPTURES ART COMMISSION EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

KEMPSEY
Shire Council





BACKGROUND

Kempsey Shire Council seeks to commission significant public artworks at its Northern and Southern Pacific Highway interchange entrances. Since the completion of the Pacific Highway bypass in 2013, Council has been undertaking major road and streetscape development along the old highway corridor. The Gateway Sculptures are an important component of this process, and will create a distinct identity and sense of place for the Shire.

Expressions of Interest are open to all artists and art based collaborative teams. Artists can apply to undertake one or both Gateway projects.

LOCATION & FEATURES

Kempsey Shire is located on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales, about 400 kilometres north of Sydney and 400 kilometres south of Brisbane. In 2015 the estimated resident population for Kempsey Shire was 29,684.

The Kempsey Shire area is also known as the Macleay Valley Coast and extends over rugged mountain country of the Great Dividing Range through undulating foothills to rich agricultural land before meeting 79.5 kms of Pacific Ocean coastline. The Macleay River, the predominant feature of the valley, runs the length of the Shire, accentuating the abundant beauty of the scenery. This natural feature was and is the lifeblood of the valley, supporting human development on the Macleay for the past 11,000 years.

The valley was occupied by various tribes largely belonging to the Dunghutti Nation. European settlement dates from 1827, with land used mainly for grazing, dairy farming and timber getting. The bountiful cedar forests were highly sought after. The Macleay Valley has some compelling stories to tell...

CONCEPT THEME - *'Nature of Our Valley'*

Through a process of community consultation, oral history recordings and historical research, two strong thematic elements emerged: the giant red cedar forests which once densely covered the region and life on the Macleay River - the backbone and lifeblood of the Valley.

The sculptures will be situated on the western roundabouts on the Southern (Slim Dusty) and Northern (Dunghutti) interchanges. They will be visible on approach for northbound and southbound traffic entering and exiting into Kempsey from the Pacific Highway.

The Gateway Sculptures aim to reflect the history, landscape and community of the area. The artworks will:

- Be a prominent and highly visible work of high artistic quality
- Form a welcoming Gateway to the town of Kempsey from the Pacific Highway
- Provide a sense of place, linking to the town's traditions and history
- Refer to each other visually, thematically and narratively



The Council is keen for artists to exercise freedom of artistic expression whilst exploring and referring to the themes specified.

The artist/s will need to work within the restrictions and parameters imposed by the site selected. Where relevant, the involvement of local fabrication and installation industries is highly desirable.

It is an expectation that the successful candidate will consult closely with relevant community and business groups to finalise their design.

TOTAL BUDGET \$140,000

A budget of \$70,000 (excl. GST) is available for each commission. This budget will need to cover:

- All material costs including landscaping
- All artist fees, commission for artists' dealers or representatives (where applicable), fees for any assistants and/or sub-contractors
- Engineering (including structural certification, if applicable)
- Lighting (if applicable)
- Insurance for the work during fabrication and until completion of installation
- Public liability insurance for construction/installation
- Installation of artwork

Council will assist with installation in collaboration with relevant staff and dependent on requirements and negotiations. The commissioning artist will be expected to discuss installation issues with relevant Council staff at the beginning of the project.

The artist and associated staff will be required to work within the Council's requirements in regard to work health and safety when considering installation. Council will manage any issues of 'land-use and permissions', in consultation with the artist. It is expected the final pieces will be installed before the end of 30 June 2018.

PROCESS OF COMMISSIONING

STAGE 1: Open to ALL

The project is open to all artists, through an 'Expression of Interest' process (see details below).

STAGE 2: Shortlisted artists ONLY

Following the initial Expression of Interest, submissions will be assessed by a specially convened Selection Panel. Artists will be shortlisted and offered an opportunity to develop and propose a concept.

Payment for developing a concept will be \$1,000 + GST. Shortlisted artists will receive further communication about the second stage of the process after the Selection Panel has made it's decision.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST [STAGE 1 REQUIREMENTS]

Artists are asked to provide the following for the Expression of Interest (Stage 1):

- Clearly state which site you are applying for (artists/teams can apply to one or both Gateways)
- A one-page CV detailing experience in public art and other artistic achievements
- Up to 10 examples of current or recent relevant works, preferably sent via Dropbox or email (maximum size of 1MB)
- Please provide a list of your photographs detailing such things as:
 - date of commission
 - commissioning agency and general theme
 - title and structural materials
 - location
- A short explanation (no more than one A4 page) of why you would like to do this project. (This could include details of how you work, what your practice focuses on or ideas about public art etc.). **This explanation is not a concept at this stage.**
- Name, postal address, email, contact details and daytime phone number
- Relevant websites, blogs, social media relating to your work

NOTE: Please do not provide proposed project designs or concepts at this stage of the Expression of Interest.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST are to be sent via mail or email to:

POST:

The General Manager – Gateway Sculptures Project
Kempsey Shire Council
PO Box 3078, West Kempsey NSW 2440

EMAIL:

ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au
(subject line Gateway
Sculptures Project)

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST WILL CLOSE 5PM FRIDAY 28 APRIL 2017

Notification of shortlisting will occur after 22 May and shortlisted artists will have approximately four (4) weeks to respond to the brief in Stage 2.

Should you need further information or advice, please contact
Olivia Parker on 02 6566 3200.