

Expression of Interest Marrambidya Wetland Signage – Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Artwork Commission

*Wagga Wagga City Council yali gulbali-yanhi ngurambang Wiradyuri.
Walumaldhaany-galang bala mayiny Wiradyuri.
Yindyamali-yanhi mudyiganggalang-bu balumbambal-bu balugirbam-bu.
Yindyamali-yanhi bagaraygan ngurambang-guwal-i yandu murun.wigi Wagga Wagga-dha.
Ngijyanhi gulbali-bu yindyamali-bu guwiinygulyalagu buyaa-bu giilaang-galam-bu.
Ngijyanhi gulbali-bu yindyamali-bu guwiinygulyalagu dhaagun-bu bila-galang-bu nganha Wiradyuri-
giyalang bala burrambin-bu nurrnurra-bu.
Gulbali-yanhi Wiradyuri mayiny bagaraygan-guwal-bu bala yarruwala-bu waluwin-bu walanbam-bu
dhirrangal-bu.*

Wagga Wagga City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, the Wiradyuri people, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future and extends our respect to all First Nations Peoples in Wagga Wagga. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the land and rivers. We also recognise the resilience, strength and pride of the Wiradyuri and First Nations communities.

SUBMISSION DUE DATE

5:00pm, Friday 1 March 2024

COMMISSION BRIEF

Wagga Wagga City Council is updating the artwork on the signage at Marrambidya Wetlands.

Council is seeking to commission the production of artwork by a local Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Artist to be used as the key visual element across signs at Marrambidya Wetland.

The intention is for the artwork to be used across 17 signs at the Wetlands, with parts of the artwork reproduced in the new signage as graphic elements. This process will be completed in consultation with the successful artist and the graphic designer.

The artwork should draw on traditional Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri art styles and take inspiration from the Marrambidya Wetlands, its stories, flora and fauna.

ABOUT THE WETLAND

The City of Wagga Wagga is situated in the heart of southern Wiradjuri Country, the largest of all nations in New South Wales. Research indicates that Wiradjuri People have been present in the region for 120,000 years ([Wiradjuri Heritage Study 2002](#)).

'Marrambidya' was selected as the name of this special place to reflect the importance of this site to the local Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri people and to acknowledge the traditional name of the Murrumbidgee River. The site is also located between two Aboriginal Place Names, Gobbagumbalin and Wiradjuri Reserve.

Transformed from the disused treatment ponds of the Narrung Street Sewage Treatment Plant, this site now provides habitat for migratory and non-migratory birds, water insects, frogs, fish, reptiles and mammals such as the locally threatened Squirrel Glider. The wetland is designed to replicate the natural water cycle with flooding during the winter months and dryer, low levels during summer. The site was officially opened on 3 June 2016 following 5 years of planning and construction.

The Marrambidya Wetland is a special place for both indigenous and non-indigenous community to connect to nature and the land. The site is a prominent place for the community of Wagga Wagga to engage with and learn about our natural environment, and a space that we can use for passive recreation, education, ecological restoration, and reconciliation.

ABOUT THE SIGNS

The signs to be updated are spread throughout the Marrambidya Wetland, located along the edges of the walking trails, mounted to steel angled posts and share information about Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri culture and the wetlands.

The current updating process will also include a review and correction of some of the Wiradjuri language used.

ELIGIBILITY

You must be a local Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri artists/arts collective eligible to work in Australia. A current ABN and NSW Working with Children Check is recommended but is not mandatory to apply.

Artists/arts collectives must have no outstanding grant acquittals or outstanding debts owing to Council.

For artists who may not have any prior experience but are interested in applying, we encourage you to reach out to Wagga Wagga City Council's Aboriginal Community Development Officer, Michaela Alexander to be connected with a local Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elder or mentor to support your submission. If reaching out to a Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elder or mentor yourself, please provide their name and contact details as part of the submission.

PAYMENT + COPYRIGHT

As payment for licensing Council to use and reproduce the artwork, the successful artist will receive a payment of **\$3,000** (ex GST). This fee has been determined by utilising the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA) as a guide for Artist's fees/rates.

The successful artist will be required to sign a Licensing Agreement.

PREFERRED THEMES AND STYLE

The signage recognises the Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri cultural significance of the Marrambidya Wetland. The artist may draw upon theme that that represents the Marrambidya Wetland to form the creative concept, which include:

- Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri campsites
- Bush Tucker
- Bora Ring
- Corroboree
- Traditional Tools
- Aboriginal Weapons
- Healing Place
- The natural processes of the wetlands such as providing habitat for native species, water filtration i.e. providing habitat for native species, water filtration

Example of native species to the Marrambidya Wetland include:

- Eastern Long-necked Turtle
- Darter
- Eurasian Coot
- Dusky Moorhen
- Royal Spoonbill
- Red-bellied Black Snake
- Spotted Grass Frog
- Freshwater Shrimp
- Murray River Rainbow Fish
- Squirrel Glider

We would like the design to reflect local Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri artistic practices. It is preferred that the subject is abstract and symbolic rather than naturalistic or representative (i.e., a landscape, object, people). The artwork can be either colourful or monochromatic.

STANDARD PARAMETERS

- The work must be suitable for general audiences
- The artwork cannot be advertising
- The artwork should not portray or depict material in a way which discriminates against or vilifies a person or part of the community on account of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, age, sexual preference, religion, disability, mental illness or political belief. It must not contain crude language, depict highly sexual or violent images, or contain personal details.

CONSULTATION PERIOD

Prior to commencing work on the artwork there will be time allocated for the successful artist to engage in consultation with relevant Council officers, Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations Elders and community members. One (1) site visit along with one (1) agenda item on the Mawang Gaway's monthly meeting will be scheduled within this time.

This time is to collaborate and develop ideas to provide adequate information and groundwork for the artist to work from. This will involve outlining the process, researching examples of other Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri art used in signage, discussing the project and conceptualising ideas and process.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this opportunity please provide:

- Completed EOI form (as provided at the end of this document)
- Artist's Curriculum Vitae (CV), no longer than two (2) pages
- Examples of previous work/s for the selection process, maximum ten (10), including details of artwork title, year and medium.

Please note: Artists may also submit images of a completed artwork as the finalised concept. This work must not have been submitted/used/licensed to any other project.

Send your EOI no later than 5pm Friday 1 March 2024 to:

Email:

first.nations@wagga.nsw.gov.au

Subject: *YOUR NAME* EOI Submission Marrambidya Wetland Signage

Post:

C/o Michaella Alexander
Wagga Wagga City Council
243 Baylis Street (PO Box 20)
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Wiradyuri Country

SELECTION PROCESS

Following the close of the Expression of Interest period, the Wiradjuri led Selection Panel will select the artist/s to be commissioned.

SUBMISSION TIMEFRAME

Task	Timeline	Responsibility
EOI Creative Brief Release – Submissions Open	ASAP	Council & Artist
Submissions Close	Friday 1 March 2024	Council
Successful artist notified date	Monday 18 March 2024	Council
Consultation & Design Development Period	Monday 18 March to Wednesday 3 April 2024	Council & Artist
Digital File of Graphic to be supplied to Council	Monday 22 April 2024	Artist

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Your questions and application can be directed to Michaella Alexander, Aboriginal Community Development Officer or Alexandra Osgood, Community Development Coordinator on:
P 1300 292 442 | E first.nations@wagga.nsw.gov.au

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

Name	
Address	
Contact phone numbers	Landline: Mobile:
Email	

Outline your artwork concept here:

Disclosure

The Artist agrees that they shall not, without the prior written agreement of Wagga Wagga City Council represent or purport to represent Council; or express views or opinions purported to be representative of the Council; or disclose or make public any information or material acquired or produced in connection with providing the Services.

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