

# Request for Expression of Interest



## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PUBLIC ART

REFERENCE	LVRC-25-039
Closing Date and Time:	Expression of Interest applications must be submitted by <b>2pm (AEST) MONDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2025</b>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Lockyer Valley Regional Council (Council) is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from suitably qualified and experienced Lockyer Valley and South East Queensland artists to deliver public artworks for the Lake Apex Precinct, Gatton.

The Lake Apex Precinct boasts a range of cultural and recreational activities, having been established on natural wetlands in 1975. The park supports a wide range of plant and animal life, from the 153 recorded bird species to the microscopic algae that float atop the lake's surface. Visitors and residents alike also enjoy the region's Art Gallery and Library, Queensland Transport Museum, Colonial Café, Youth Node, playgrounds, and walking tracks also located within the Precinct.

The artwork opportunities will form part of Council's application under the South East Queensland City Deal Public Art Initiative. Under the initiative, Council can apply for up to \$430,000 for public art commissions within the region to be delivered by 31 March 2027.

Commissioned artworks will respond to the project's curatorial rationale and reflect the character and heritage of the Lockyer Valley region, as well as the resilience of native flora and fauna. The curatorial rationale of *Between Water and Wild* will guide artists to create artworks that demonstrate the interrelationship between the region's waterways, landscapes and creatures that inhabit it, celebrating its strength amidst environmental challenges.

## 2. CURATORIAL RATIONALE

*Between Water and Wild* draws on the region's deep connection to nature, its rich cultural heritage and its remarkable resilience in the face of environmental challenges. As a place of ecological and community significance, Lake Apex offers a powerful context for sculptural works that celebrate both the beauty and endurance of the local landscape.

Proposed artworks will explore the interplay between realism and abstraction to interpret the diverse flora and fauna of the area. Some sculptures may evoke native species with detailed, lifelike accuracy, while others may use abstract forms to represent the invisible forces—like water flow, regeneration, and memory—that shape the region's identity. Through this balance, the works will invite reflection on the interdependence of people and environment.

Sculptures will serve as visual waypoints, marking the landscape with stories of survival, regeneration, and harmony. From the lifelike to the symbolic, the works will foster moments of contemplation and connection, inviting viewers to trace their own place within the broader living system.

In grounding contemporary art in this setting, the project aims to inspire appreciation, curiosity, and stewardship—celebrating the living, breathing character of the Lockyer Valley.

### 3. APPLICATION PROCESS

To express your interest, carefully read the information below, complete and submit the Application Form by 2pm Monday, 15 September 2025.

#### PHASE 1 – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Suitably qualified and experienced Lockyer Valley and South East Queensland artists are invited to submit an Expression of Interest by the above due date. Up to three (3) artists will then be shortlisted against the Assessment Criteria to progress to Phase 2.

#### PHASE 2 – CONCEPT DESIGN PHASE

Shortlisted artists will be invited to develop an artwork concept/s and will be provided with an Artwork Commission Brief, Concept Design Agreement and Concept Design Fee.

### 4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Applicants must be a recognised practicing artist.
2. Applicants must have previous experience delivering sculptural public artwork commissions.
3. Applicants must have a connection to the Lockyer Valley and/or South East Queensland.
4. Applicants must be available to participate in the Concept Design Process between Monday, 22 September 2025 – Friday, 31 October 2025.

Council strongly encourages First Nations peoples and Australian artists including those with a disability and from a culturally diverse background to submit their Expressions of Interest.

### 5. WHAT DO I NEED TO SUBMIT AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST?

Eligible artists will be required to supply the following:

1. Artist Statement (up to 400 words) outlining key themes and considerations within your work in response to:
  - The curatorial rationale.
  - The objectives of the South East Queensland City Deal Public Art Initiatives:
    - Enhance the visitor experience and quality of public spaces
    - Contribute to the Lockyer Valley's identity and heritage
    - Encourage cultural tourism
    - Support a sense of community and social cohesion.
2. Artist biography (up to 200 words).
3. A current resume (up to three pages).
4. Up to six (6) examples of previous and relevant public art commissions.

Note: Artists are **NOT** to submit concept designs in their Expression of Interest.

### HOW WILL MY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BE ASSESSED?

All Expressions of Interest will be assessed by the Lockyer Valley Public Art Selection Panel under the following considerations:

1. Alignment with curatorial rationale and funding objectives.
2. Artistic merit of previous public art commissions.

3. Relevance of prior work in capturing a place's culture, heritage, and landscapes including flora and fauna.

## 6. IMPORTANT DATES

### PHASE 1 – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expressions of Interest open: 9am Monday, 25 August 2025.

Expressions of Interest close: 2pm Monday, 15 September 2025.

### PHASE 2 – CONCEPT DESIGN PHASE

Shortlisted Applicants advised: Monday, 22 September 2025.

Site meeting: 11am Thursday, 25 September 2025.

Shortlisted Applicants Concept Designs due: 2pm Monday, 6 October 2025.

Shortlisted Applicants presentation of concepts to selection panel: From Tuesday, 7 October 2025.

Artists notified of project approval: by 2pm Friday, 31 October 2025.

#### Project Stages

Stage 1: EOI and shortlisting

Stage 2: Concept designs

Stage 3: City Deal Grant Application process

Stage 4: Artwork commission

#### Timeline

August – September 2025

September – October 2025

October 2025

November 2025 – March 2027

## 7. PROJECT CONTACT DETAILS

**Email:** [tourism@lvrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:tourism@lvrc.qld.gov.au)

**Address:** 26 Railway Street, Gatton QLD 4343