



Artist's Brief

Burnie Courts Complex Relocation Project

Commission	Outdoor artwork
Eligibility	Tasmanian artists who meet our general eligibility criteria: www.arts.tas.gov.au/grants_and_funding/general_eligibility
Selection process	Expressions of Interest Up to three applications shortlisted.
Location &	100–106 Wilson St, Burnie
Audience	General Public
Fee	\$72,000 (ex. GST) Shortlist fee \$1,000 (ex. GST)
Key dates	• Expressions of Interest close: 17 November 2025, 11.59pm • Shortlist presentation due: 16 February 2026 • DDP presentation by: 13 April 2026 • Artwork installed by: September 2027
Contact	Tobias Hengeveld – Public Art and Industry Development Coordinator, Arts Tasmania Ph 03 6165 5556 tobias.hengeveld@arts.tas.gov.au
Apply	www.arts.tas.gov.au/public_art

The commission

Arts Tasmania and the Department of Justice invite expressions of interest from Tasmanian artists to create an outdoor artwork in the main forecourt entryway to the new Burnie Courts Complex.

Applicants can apply for the commission as an individual artist or in a creative collaboration.

Tasmanian Aboriginal artists and cross-cultural collaborations are encouraged to apply.

Background

The Department of Justice is delivering a replacement Burnie Courts Complex that will meet the needs of a modern justice system, while providing a safe and secure environment for everyone who works at or visits the courts. The Wilson Street site is ideally located on a corner block, adjacent to the Burnie Police Station and in close proximity to client-related services. This new facility will support improved court operations, security and access to justice in the North-West of the State.

Overarching design principles for the new court building

- **Inclusiveness** – welcoming, inclusive and accessible for all users, incorporating trauma-informed design principles throughout.
- **Local materials / connection to nature** – reflective of the unique character of its location with scale, form and materials referencing the natural environment.
- **Civic significance** – symbolic of the civic significance of the court system in Tasmanian society.
- **Dignity** – upholding a sense of dignity for all users, promoting universal access to justice, observing levels of privacy for those inside the building
- **Transparency** – visually embodying principles of transparency and accountability in the justice system

A key design narrative for the building draws inspiration from the local natural environment. It is inspired by the transformative effects of the elements and references the shapes created by streams, rivers, and oceans. The design features fluid forms, layered materials, and textured surfaces that evoke a landscape sculpted by wind and water. A sense of the effect of these forces on the building itself results in the creation of a forecourt and cave-like openings.

Drawing from the architectural brief, the landscape design of the forecourt entryway has been developed around the idea of 'walking with the river' and references a journey from Emu Bay (Mutawaynatji) up Emu River – a recognisable feature of Burnie's landscape and heritage. A meandering path leads visitors up to the main building entry from Wilson Street. Colour variation in the pavement creates a graphic reminiscent of a river. This pathway abuts areas of lighter pavement that reference a sandy beach and tidal flats. Stencil and sandblasting techniques, in conjunction with coloured and exposed aggregate concrete, are used to achieve markings of shifting tidelines. Pockets of coastal plantings at street front graduate to denser rainforest species 'upstream' at the building entry. This denser vegetation also works to partially screen the large glass façade of the building foyer from the street. A number of seating nodes offer curved benches with backs and arm rests lining the 'sandy beach' areas, complemented by more informal seating on scattered boulders.

Please see **Project Documents 1 and 2** for detail of the forecourt landscape design and materials. **Project Document 3** is a simplified representation of these concepts within the new building design.

Objectives

The Department of Justice seeks to commission a bold artwork that responds to the key themes and design principles of the project and complements the landscape design of the forecourt area, both in its materiality and concept. This site will consist of paved pathway, hard pavement, stone and planting zones. There are opportunities for the work to interact with or be incorporated into existing materials and features, subject to consultation with the landscape architects and project team.

The artwork may be one or more works, in one or multiple locations within the forecourt area.

Artwork concepts have the potential to be engaging and interactive, for instance offering points of intrigue, rest or reflection to the wider public.

Some suggested conceptual approaches include:

- themes or materials that are culturally and environmentally meaningful and relevant to site and community, and/or the service of the court.
- Enhancing public engagement with the site through a meaningful artistic contribution

The finished artwork should:

- be suitable for the site and not create hot spots with material that are too reflective
- be robust and suitable for an outdoor setting (artists should take into account potential risks of vandalism)
- require minimal maintenance or intervention from court staff.

Apply

Please provide a CV, examples of relevant artwork and some information about how you would approach the commission via [our website](#).

How it works

Project team

The project team is a resource to help you realise your design and meet the project objectives:

- Andrew McCreary – Associate, X-Squared Architects
- Christopher Cornell – Project Manager, Strategic Infrastructure projects, Department of Justice
- Jane Cook – Deputy Administrator of Courts South, Department of Justice
- Tobias Hengeveld – Public Art & Industry Development Coordinator, Arts Tasmania

Selection

Expressions of interest will be assessed against two criteria:

- **Quality**
 - *Are the key people experienced, or do they demonstrate the potential to develop and grow?*

- *Do they have a strong artistic practice?*
- **Benefit**
 - *How will receiving this commission potentially benefit the artist, building users and the Tasmanian community?*

Up to three artists will be shortlisted to further develop proposals.

The shortlist proposals will be presented to the project team and assessed against the criteria of quality and benefit, as well as two additional criteria:

- **Planning**
 - *How feasible is the project given the commission budget, constraints, and timelines?*
 - *To what extent does the artist team demonstrate the necessary skills and experience to deliver the proposed artwork?*
- **Vision**
 - *How well does the proposed artwork demonstrate a creative or innovative vision in terms of concept, media, construction methods, materials and/or collaborations?*

Please note that members of the project team may nominate a colleague to participate in the selection process on their behalf.

Commissioning process

Commission agreement

If you are selected to work on the commission, you will be asked to:

- meet with Arts Tasmania to discuss arrangements for the commission, such as payment instalments, roles and responsibilities and insurance
- sign a commissioning agreement to confirm this information in writing.

Detailed design development

Once you have signed the commission agreement you will be asked to:

- produce a detailed design plan to realise your concept, including artwork specifications such as drawings
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- make sure that the artwork design meets all relevant building standards
- report regularly to the selection committee as the commission progresses
- manage all aspects of design through to handover of the completed artwork.

Fabrication and installation

Once your detailed design has been approved by the project team, you will be asked to:

- fabricate your artwork according to the detailed design plan
- undertake the installation in consultation with the Department and its Contractor
- meet all work health and safety and other requirements while on site
- keep Arts Tasmania updated on your progress and let us know as soon as possible if you need to vary the approved design or timeframe.

Handover your artwork

Let Arts Tasmania know as soon as possible when you are ready to complete your artwork so we can:

- make sure it meets the approved detailed design plan
- provide you with a handover certificate
- document it for our records
- promote it.

General information

The Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme

This commission is supported through the Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme. For information about the scheme please visit [the Arts Tasmania website](#).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island content

If your activity involves Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander content, your application must provide evidence of how you are working with the Aboriginal community. Please refer to the [Australia Council for the Arts' Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts](#).

The Tasmanian Government's [Office of Aboriginal Affairs](#) can provide advice on working with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and organisations.

Code of practice

We encourage artists and arts organisations to comply with the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA)'s [Code of Practice for Visual Arts, Craft and Design](#).

Workplace health and safety

Siting artworks in the public domain can result in safety risks for the public and for artists. The Department of State Growth requires that commissioned artists comply with Tasmania's [Work Health and Safety laws](#) and the [State Growth Work Health and Safety Contractor Standards](#).

If selected for the commission, you will need to have public liability insurance cover of at least \$10 million.

Working with vulnerable people

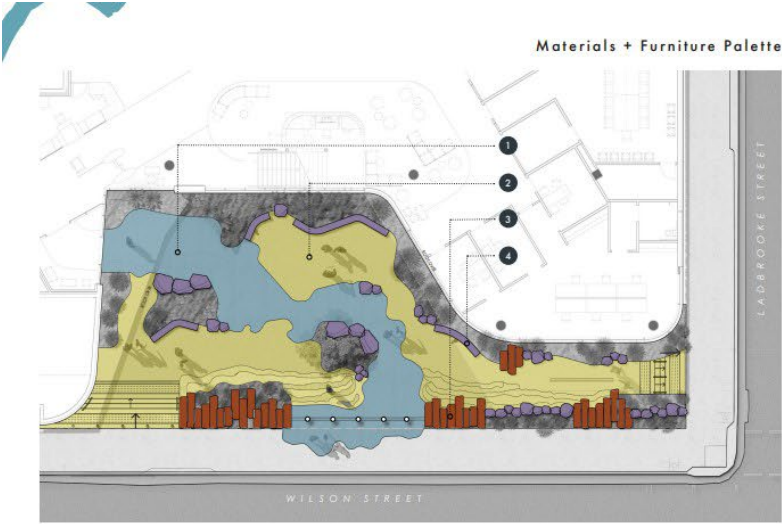
The *Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013* aims to protect vulnerable persons, including children and young people, from the risk of harm. It requires those working with children and young people to have a current registration and [Working with Vulnerable People \(WWVP\) card](#).

Please visit our website to see Arts Tasmania's [policy on working with children and young people](#)

Project Documents

Project Document 1: Forecourt Landscape Plan





1. Primary Footpath



Colour concrete variation, textures and sizing used to create a graphic path reminiscent of a river and visually guide user to the entrance.

2. Secondary Footpaths



The sandbell and tidal flats of Emu Bay/Mutawarrup are interpreted in the secondary footpaths of the courtyard. Stenciling & sandblasting techniques are used to in conjunction with coloured, exposed aggregate concrete to achieve this look & feel.

3. Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM)



Horizontally laid basalt columns representative of the basalt present at Emu Bay/Mutawarrup used as a seating edge adjacent Wilson Street.

4. Furniture + Features



Furniture & designed elements, to use organic forms that represent elements of the Burnie's coastal environments.



1. Planting representative of Fern Glade Reserve and 'up stream' plant communities (Examples species)



2. Planting representative of coastal dune and tussock communities (Examples species)



Project Document 3: 3D Renderings of Forecourt

