

RM number: 075747

## ARTIST'S BRIEF

### Risdon Prison – Southern Remand Centre

| Project summary    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Commission         | Part A: Artwork for outdoor family visiting area<br>Part B: Sculptural or environmental art element/s for outdoor reflection area |
| Client             | Department of Justice   |
| Commissioner       | The Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme  |
| Location           | Southern Remand Centre, Risdon Prison   |
| Audience           | Remand prisoners, prison staff, visitors, and families  |
| Artwork budget     | Part A: \$24 000 + GST (if applicable)<br>Part B: \$48 000 + GST (if applicable)  |
| Applications close | 15 March 2021   |
| Installed by       | 31 December 2021  |

### Project background

A new remand facility is being constructed at the Risdon Prison Complex in Southern Tasmania.

The facility will accommodate people who are in custody pending the outcome of a court hearing, including people who have been convicted but not yet sentenced. Many prisoners 'on remand' will be transitioning into a custodial environment for the first time, which can produce particular stresses and uncertainties. Remand prisoners currently represent around one third of the prison population in Tasmania.

Tasmania currently has no separate remand facility, so the new Southern Remand Centre will mean that up to 140 male remand prisoners can be accommodated separately from sentenced prisoners, in line with relevant best practice and standards.

More information can be found here: <https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/strategic-infrastructure-projects/new-southern-remand-centre>

## Key ideas and purpose of commission

The Department of Justice would like to commission artwork for the new Centre which improves the experience of remandees and their families consistent with specific building design principles (see 'design considerations' below). Two artwork opportunities have been identified, and artists may apply to one or both.

The Department of Justice acknowledges the cultural significance of the land on which the centre will be constructed to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, the palawa and pakana people. The Department has worked with the Aboriginal Heritage Council to ensure that construction works are carried out with sensitivity and respect.

Either or both parts of the artwork commission could explore or express the connection between the natural environment and community. The Southern Remand Centre will house a temporary community of people in custody, in an unfamiliar place, for whom the future is uncertain. The artwork could help to provide a sense of 'grounding' in the land for people in custody, and their families.

### Part A: Artwork for outdoor family visiting area

Risdon Prison seeks to improve the experience for families and children visiting people on remand by providing a more comfortable and welcoming atmosphere than the general prison environment.

Artwork is sought for an existing outdoor patio in the family visiting area, which overlooks a garden area, and is also visible from inside the main visitors' area. The outdoor area is enclosed by heavy wire mesh for security purposes, which can sometimes be distracting or discomforting for visiting families and children.

The commissioned artwork could help remandees, their families and children to express and maintain their connection and enhance their time together during visits. To complement the building design principles and outdoor location, artists may wish to consider organic or natural shapes and materials and the use of colour to encourage interest and awareness of the artwork

Artists can propose an artwork in any medium, subject to security and safety requirements (see below). Consideration is being given to relocation of the wire mesh at a future date to expand the outdoor visiting area into the garden space. While not a requirement, proposals for artwork which could accommodate this change (e.g. can be relocated) are encouraged.

### Part B: Sculptural or environmental element/s for outdoor reflection area

An area for quiet contemplation or spiritual practice will be established in the secure outdoor area of the Centre. A robust sculptural or environmental artwork which explores or expresses connection with the natural environment can be proposed for this area. This could include free-standing sculptural elements, earthworks, plantings, ground-based inlay or combination of these.

Tasmanian Aboriginal artists or a collaborative team including a Tasmanian Aboriginal artist, are encouraged to apply. Please contact Arts Tasmania's Aboriginal Arts Program Officer Bonnie Starick on 6777 2805 if you would like some support in lodging a proposal.

## Artform

Visual and environmental artists are encouraged to apply for this commission. Artists working in other media will also be considered, providing they can address the brief. Artists may submit solo or collaborative applications.

## Design considerations

### Building design principles

The Department of Justice is seeking to create an appropriate experience for residents of the new Centre through the use of the following building design principles:

- The design of spaces to create a tranquil and calm atmosphere, and not be austere. Soft furnishings and floor coverings of differing colours where possible and appropriate.
- Opportunities for maximising natural light within the design are to be considered. The facilities must have an overall feeling/experience of space and create a calm and relaxing environment. A close connection from the inside to outside is required.
- The facility must have bright and calming colour schemes supported by a sophisticated selection of colours, materials and patterns to create a visually interesting environment with a domestic/village aesthetic. The use of grey concrete will not be appropriate.
- The Southern Remand Centre must have carefully designed landscaping, greenery and gardens in areas readily accessible by remandees, as well as in areas that remandees do not have access to but are visible from buildings or transition areas. Trees and low maintenance bushes and shrubs are to be included.
- The Southern Remand Centre must consider the ethnic and demographic diversity of the remandees, by providing external spaces for spiritual reflection and areas acknowledging the Aboriginal heritage of the site.

### Site information

Drawings and photos for both artwork locations with dimensions are shown in Appendix B. Please note that due to security considerations full plans cannot be made publicly available. Please contact the Arts Tasmania program officer with specific enquiries about the site.

### Safety and security requirements

As the project is located within a prison facility the artist will need to work closely with the security requirements of the Department of Justice. These constraints relate to, but are not limited to the securing of elements within the prison environment, the selection of appropriate materials and construction methodologies. The successful artist will be advised by the client as to specific security requirements for the detailing of these components during the detailed design phase of the project.

The successful artist/s will be required to undertake a police check and pass a Prison Services security check.

## **Compliance**

The artworks must comply with the relevant Australian Standards and the Building Code of Australia relating to the design, fabrication and installation of the commission. This may require the artist to engage a consultant to work with the artist on matters relating, but not limited to, engineering and material certification where relevant. It is the responsibility of the artist to provide evidence of such compliance at both the Detailed Design Package stage and at installation. The artist is required to include these costs in the artwork budget.

The appointed artist will be required to consult with stakeholders as part of the Detailed Design Package stage of the project.

## **Artwork lifespan**

The successful artist will be required to supply information about maintenance requirements for the artworks. The artworks should be very low maintenance and should have a lifespan of at least 10 years. Consideration must be given to the fact that the artwork will be in the public domain and may, therefore, be subject to climatic conditions, vandalism and wear and tear.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their ideas with the Program Officer - Public Art whilst developing their submissions.

## **Budget**

The artwork budget is intended to cover all costs associated with the design, construction and certification of artwork.

The artist is responsible for:

- Design, fabrication, delivery and installation of the artwork
- Excavation, footings, services and drainage where specifically required for the artwork
- Obtaining relevant compliance certification for the artwork if required

For Part B of the commission, the Department of Justice is responsible for:

- Pre-artwork installation of the artwork: Provision of a level ground surface (soil) in the designated outdoor space
- Post-artwork installation: Provision of landscaping elements consistent with the SRC landscaping plan, including ground coverings, pathways, plantings, irrigation, etc, as required, except where specified by the artist

Provision of specific landscaping elements which form part of the artwork will be the responsibility of the artist. This can be discussed in the detailed design stage.

Artist costs may include design fee, labour, transport, installation, any certification costs, insurance, travel, project management fee if subcontractors are engaged by the artist, contingency allocation and any other costs normally borne by independent contractors. If you are bound by an exclusive contract to a commercial gallery it is your responsibility to notify the gallery and negotiate commission fees which may require payment.

Artists need to develop a budget to ensure that they are able to deliver the proposed artwork if awarded the commission, however applicants are not required to include the budget in their application. A budget will be required as part of the Detailed Design Package and artists will also need to submit a budget report at the completion of the commission. There is a template you can use to help you with your budgeting in the Resources section at the bottom of the Public Art page on the Arts Tasmania website:

[http://www.arts.tas.gov.au/public\\_art](http://www.arts.tas.gov.au/public_art)

An attribution plaque for the artwork will be provided by the Program Officer - Public Art and this does not need to be factored into the applicant's budget considerations.

## Selection process and eligibility

The Selection Committee will consider all eligible applications and select an artist on the basis of their response to the Artist's Brief with reference to the Selection Criteria.

After considering the applications, the Selection Committee may develop a shortlist and request an interview with selected artists to discuss the submission in more detail prior to the final selection. No fee will be payable in this instance.

Professional<sup>1</sup> contemporary artists<sup>2</sup> resident in Tasmania<sup>3</sup> are eligible to apply. Please note tertiary students may not use a commission as part of their coursework assessment.

## Selection criteria

### 1. Suitability

To what extent do the artistic concept, design, materials and delivery method address the brief?

### 2. Viability

How feasible is the project given the commission budget, constraints and timelines?

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<sup>1</sup> Arts Tasmania defines professional artists as those who demonstrate a commitment to their artistic work as a major aspect of their life and who demonstrate a manner of working that qualify them to have their work judged against the highest professional standards of practice. Consideration is also given to whether the artist has regular public exhibitions of art work; offers work for sale, or sells work; is eligible for or has been awarded a government grant; selected for public exhibition, awards or prizes; has secured work or consultancies on the basis of professional expertise; has had work acquired for public or private collections; is a member of a professional association on the basis of his/her status as a professional artist

<sup>2</sup> Arts Tasmania considers contemporary artists to be those who give voice to current theoretical arts practice and reflect the values and/or issues of our time

<sup>3</sup> Arts Tasmania defines Tasmanian artists as those who have resided in Tasmania for six out of the previous twelve months

### 3. Capability

To what extent does the team demonstrate the necessary skills and experience to deliver the commission?

### 4. Vision

How well does the proposal demonstrate a creative or innovative vision in terms of concept, media, construction methods, materials and/or collaborations?

| Selection committee   |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Arts Tasmania         | David Patman, Program Officer – Public Art<br>Bonnie Starick, Program Officer – Aboriginal Arts |
| Department of Justice | Amber Smith, Project Manager  |
| Building User         | John Pickering, Acting Chief Superintendent, Risdon Prison                                      |
| Architect             | Alex Newman, X Squared  |

Applicants wishing to clarify information regarding the commission should contact the Program Officer – Public Art in the first instance, rather than other members of the Selection Committee.

### Timeline

The closing date for applications is Monday 15 March 2021. Applications must be completed and lodged online by 11:59pm on the closing date. An automatically generated, email notification will be sent upon receipt of application and the applicant should contact Arts Tasmania if this is not received, as this may indicate that the application has not been lodged. Support material must be uploaded as part of your application and will not be accepted separately.

The proposed deadline for the installation of artwork will be 31 December 2021.

### Online applications

Online applications consist of:

- applicant's details
- a description of the artist's concept proposal.
- support material, as detailed in the online application form, which gives a clear indication of the quality of the artist's previous contemporary artwork. Some support material can be used to illustrate the proposed artwork concept.
- a current resumé, maximum two pages, for each key artist proposed for the commission.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** additional material will not be accepted.

Artists are encouraged to discuss their applications with the Program Officer - Public Art before submission.

## Enquiries

David Patman  
Program Officer - Public Art  
Arts Tasmania  
Tel 03 6165 6665  
[david.patman@arts.tas.gov.au](mailto:david.patman@arts.tas.gov.au)

## APPENDIX A

### Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme

#### Background

The Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme, established in 1979, is the oldest continuous public art scheme in Australia. It is a significant, Tasmanian public art collection of works including paintings, prints, ceramics, glass, sculpture, furniture, photography and installation work. The collection forms part of the living public heritage for the people of Tasmania.

Public artworks from the collection are located throughout the state, in both rural and metropolitan areas. They are appreciated in a wide range of public buildings including offices and open spaces and across all government departments.

The Scheme has created a vital interface between the state's professional artistic community and the general public and has generated significant employment opportunities for artists.

The Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme has a number of ongoing benefits for both artists and audiences. By visually enriching public buildings and spaces in the public arena, the Scheme enhances public access to and understanding of contemporary art from diverse fields of practice. The Scheme provides artists with professional development opportunities and the chance to reach diverse communities and audiences with their work. It also provides a positive example of the social, cultural, community and economic benefits of the arts to the wider community.

#### Administration

Arts Tasmania is a division of the Department of State Growth. Arts Tasmania's Program Officer - Public Art:

- manages the commission and purchase of artwork projects through to their completion
- negotiates with all parties in the development of the Artist's Brief
- establishes the Selection Committee to coordinate selection of the artist
- seeks the relevant Ministerial approvals
- arranges contracts and payments
- manages approval of the Detailed Design Package
- inspects and documents completed commissions
- authorises final acceptance of commissions in consultation with other relevant stakeholders
- forwards the Artist's Statements and the Artwork Manual to the client and building user
- advises the client and building user of processes that need to be followed in the case of repairs, maintenance or decommissioning of the works after the artworks are handed over to the client and building user.

Arts Tasmania is responsible for overseeing the operation of the Scheme.

The objectives of the Scheme are detailed in the Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme Handbook.



## Summary of the commissioning process

1. Brief advertised (Program Officer – Public Art available for advice about application development)
2. Applications reviewed by selection Committee meets to select artist for commission, OR shortlists a selected number of artists
3. If a shortlist is compiled, shortlisted artists present more detailed design to the Selection Committee
4. Artist contracted (Stage 1)
5. Artist develops Detailed Design Package after consultation with all relevant stakeholders
6. Detailed Design Package presented for consideration by relevant stakeholders
7. Detailed Design Package approved and permission to proceed with fabrication and installation received (Stage 2)
8. Artist fabricates and co-ordinates with relevant stakeholders re installation
9. Any proposed changes that occur after approval of the Detailed Design Package must be submitted to Arts Tasmania for approval by all relevant stakeholders in writing prior to implementation
10. Installation completed and certified by the artist's qualified consultants as required
11. Arts Tasmania notified of completion
12. Handover inspection undertaken by Arts Tasmania and any other relevant stakeholder as required
13. Acceptance of commission upon successful handover inspection by relevant stakeholders
14. Artist provides actuals budget report and receives final payment (Stage 3)

## Workplace health and safety

Siting artworks in the public domain can result in safety risks – for the public and for artists.

The risks to the public from the display of the artwork are mitigated through engineering approvals and sign-offs and through ensuring compliance with the Building Code of Australia and Australian Standards.

The risks to the artist and the risks to the public from the artist's actions whilst on-site during the installation of the artwork need to be managed by the artist through risk mitigation strategies appropriate to the level of risk identified. Commissioned artists will need to provide Arts Tasmania with a Clearance to Work Certificate and Risk Assessment (RA) and any additional paperwork required as part of their Detailed Design Package presentation.

In scoping the commission, Arts Tasmania recognise that hazards may be present with the artist's work on site. These will be communicated to the artist through a Scope of Work Risk Assessment which will be provided while the Detailed Design Package presentation is under development. Hazards identified through the Scope of Work Risk Assessment must be addressed in the Clearance to Work Certificate and Risk Assessment, along with any others identified during the development of the design idea.

## Working with vulnerable people

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

For projects that are located in a school, library, a child and family centre or a location where children will be on site, for example a children's ward in a hospital, the selected artist must be registered to work with vulnerable people. If you are employing contractors or sub-contractors they will also need to comply with these requirements.

Your registration needs to be current for the duration of your time on-site. Details and the online application form can be found here: [www.justice.tas.gov.au/working\\_with\\_children](http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children). Please note that this registration does incur a cost.

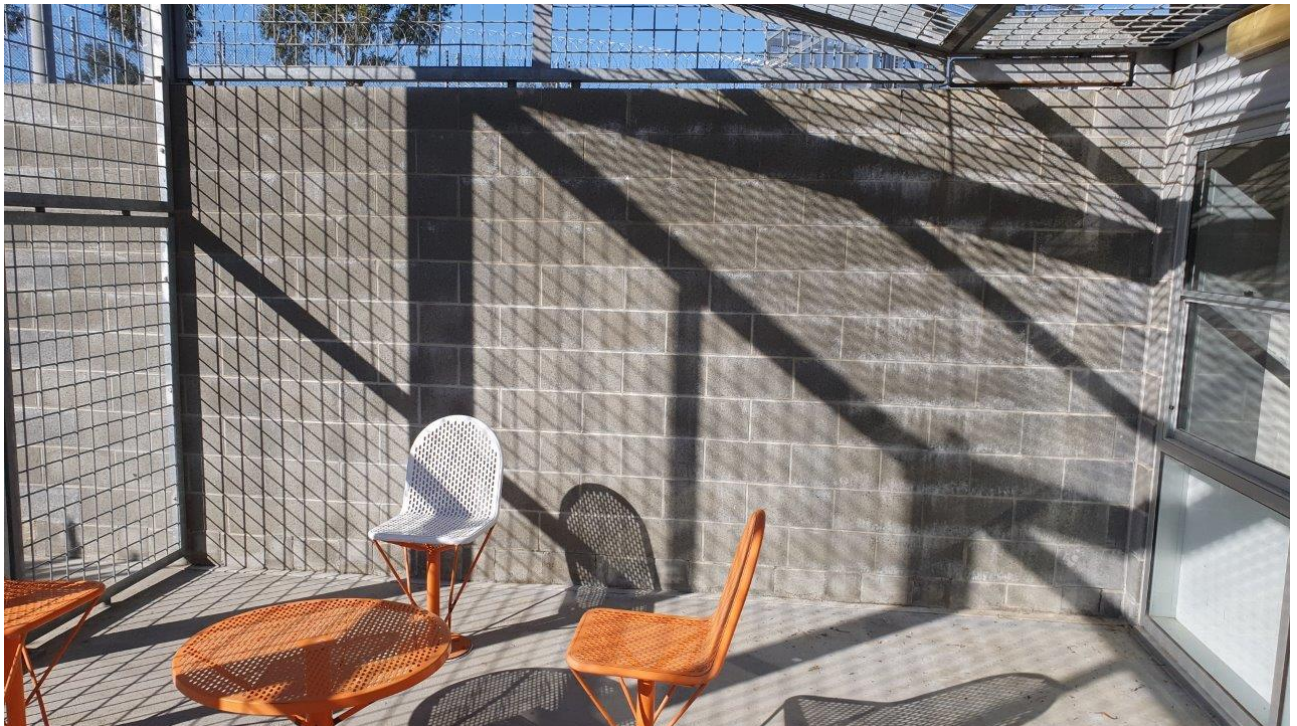
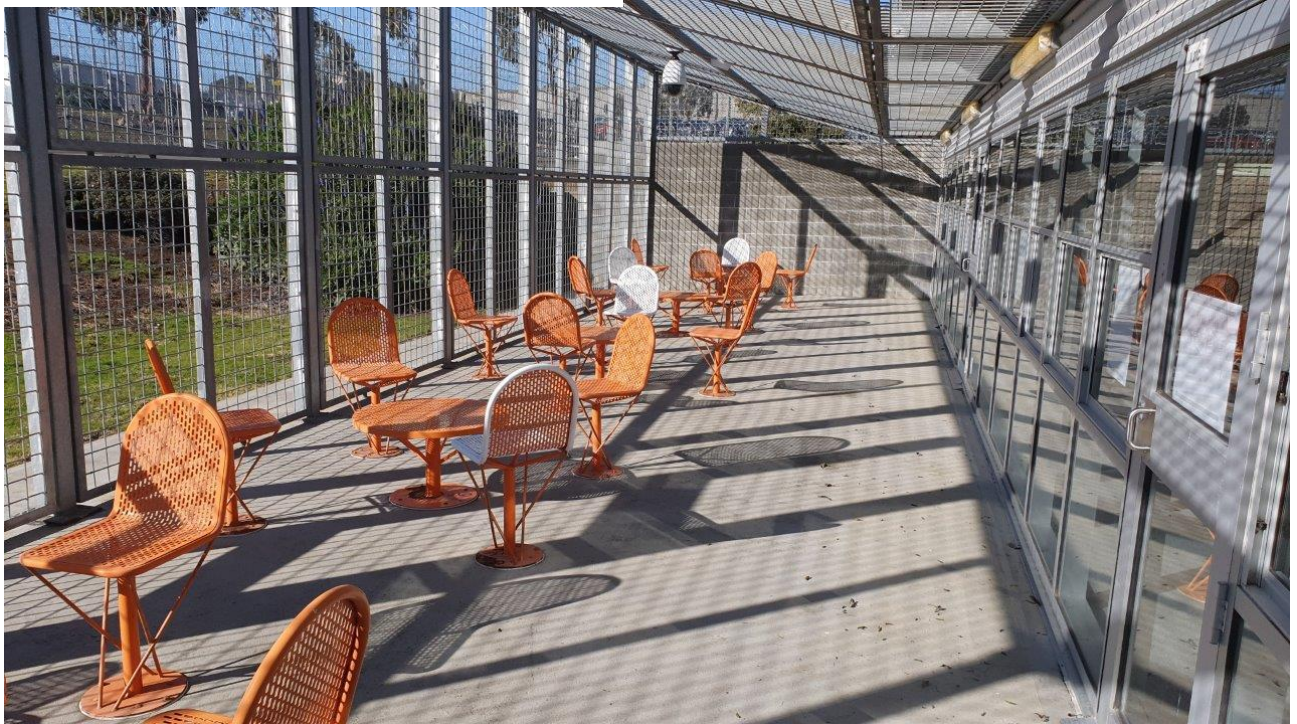
For commissions that include the depiction and employment of children in artworks, exhibitions and publications, artists should familiarise themselves with the Australia Council's protocols for working with children which can be found here: [www.australiacouncil.gov.au/funding/children-in-art-protocols](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/funding/children-in-art-protocols).

**APPENDIX B: SITE PLANS AND IMAGES**

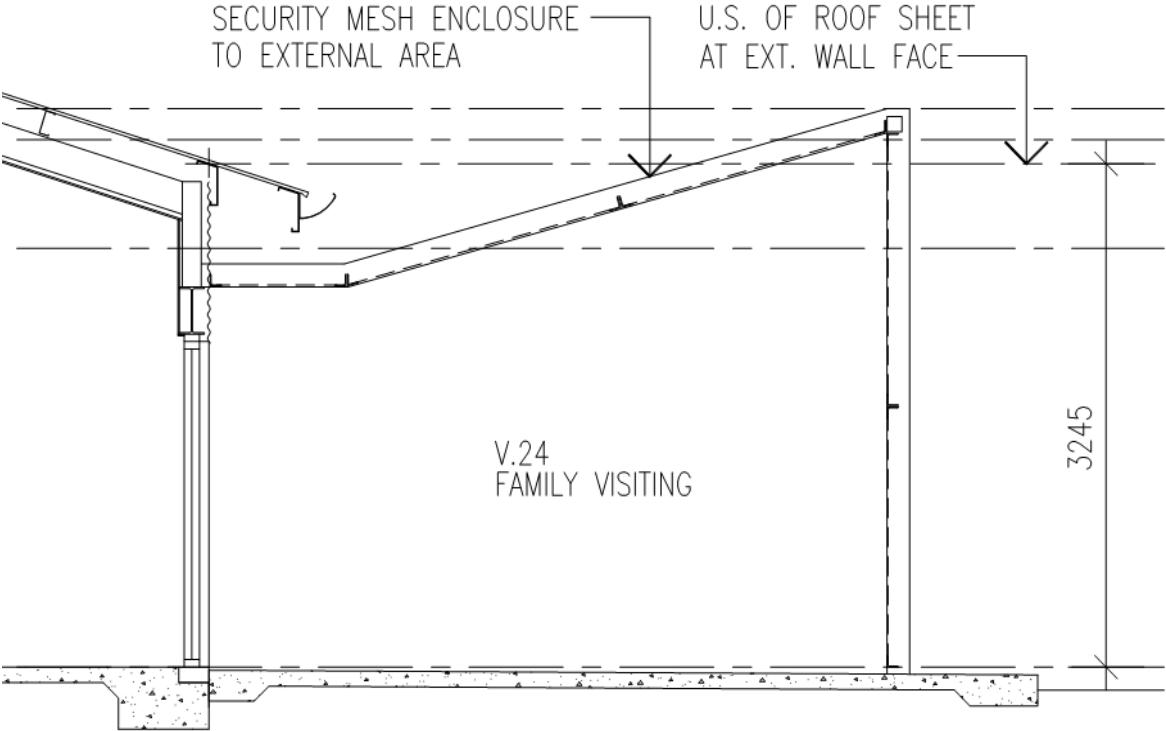
Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme – Southern Remand Centre

1. Outdoor family visiting area – drawings and photos (Part A)
2. Outdoor reflection area – site plan (Part B)

Outdoor family visiting area (Part A) - photos

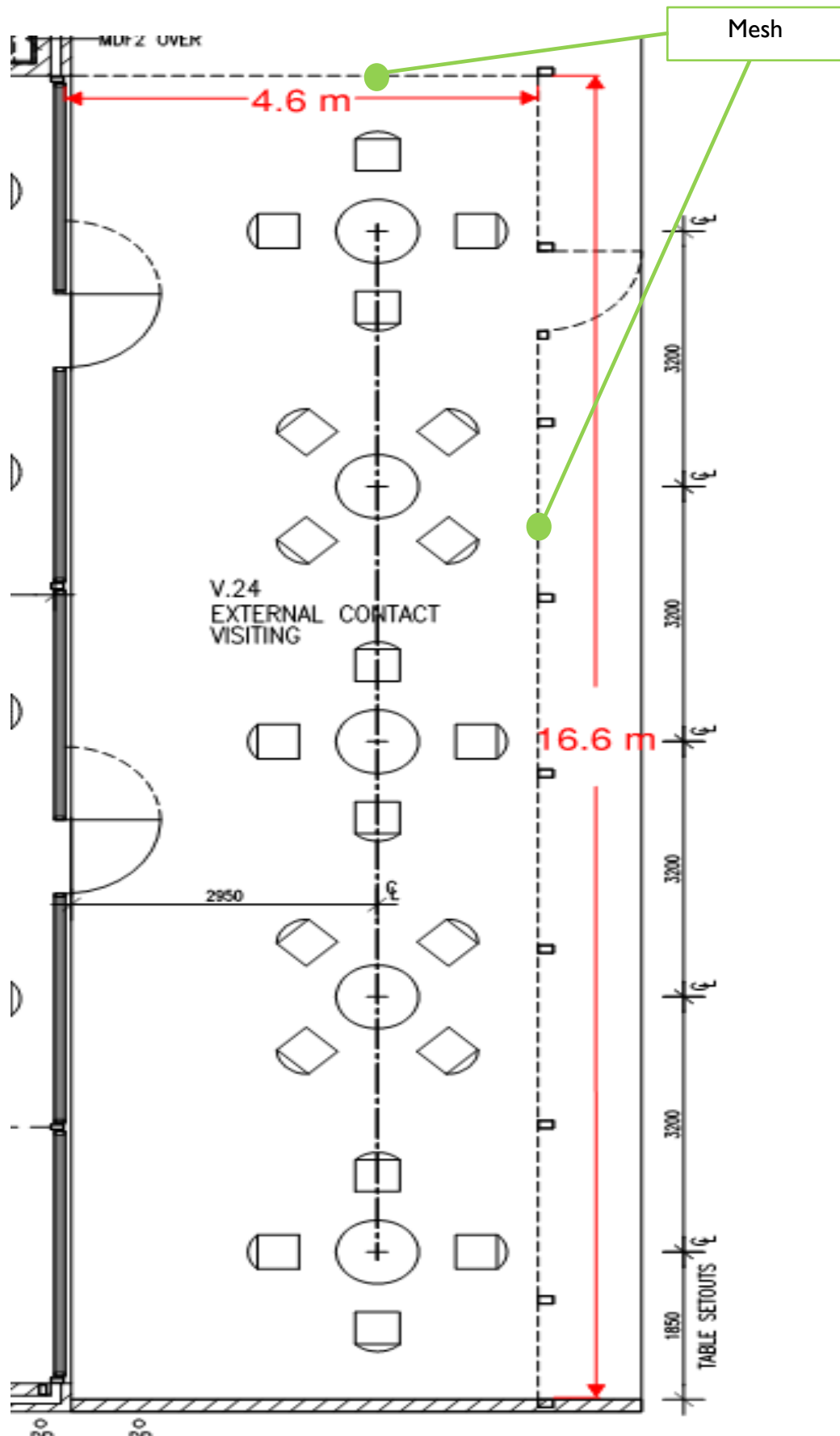


Outdoor family visiting area (Part A) - elevation





Outdoor family visiting area (Part A) - plan



Outdoor reflection area (Part B) - plan

