



Project brief:

Canterbury Road Underpass mural

25/11/2025





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Canterbury Road Underpass mural brief

1. Project overview

1.1 Brief description

The Canterbury Road Underpass mural project invites experienced mural artists to design and deliver a significant public artwork along the Cooks River Cycleway at the Canterbury Road Underpass, aiming to transform the site into a vibrant and meaningful public space.

1.2 Objectives

- Enhance the underpass environment with a vibrant artwork that improves visual amenity and reduces vandalism whilst encouraging respect for the area.
- Strengthen local identity and foster a sense of community pride through an artwork that reflects the character, stories and shared experiences of Canterbury.
- Bring to life the theme "our river, our future", capturing the spirit, significance and future vision of the Cooks River and its surrounding landscape.
- Acknowledge and celebrate the ecological value, Indigenous heritage and historical milestones that have shaped the local community.
- Showcase the natural environment and geographical identity of the area, highlighting local biodiversity, waterways, topography and cultural narratives connected to place.
- Support meaningful community engagement by ensuring the artist collaborates with local groups throughout the concept development process, embedding community perspectives into the final design.

1.3 Location and dimensions

The final mural artwork will be installed beneath Prout's Bridge (Canterbury Road Bridge), spanning the expanded underpass area. The design should create a cohesive and visually unified composition across one to four distinct sites, ensuring continuity and a seamless, engaging experience for pedestrians and cyclists.

Site	Description	Dimensions	Approx. Size
Site A	Main mural area – high wall and parapet section	3m (H) × 20m (L)	60m ²
Site B	Overhead entrances ×2	1m (H) × 5m (L) each	10m ²
Site C	Parapet wall – left hand side (LHS)	1.04m (H) × 65m (L)	68m ²
Site D	Parapet wall – right hand side (RHS)	1.04m (H) × 70m (L)	73m ²

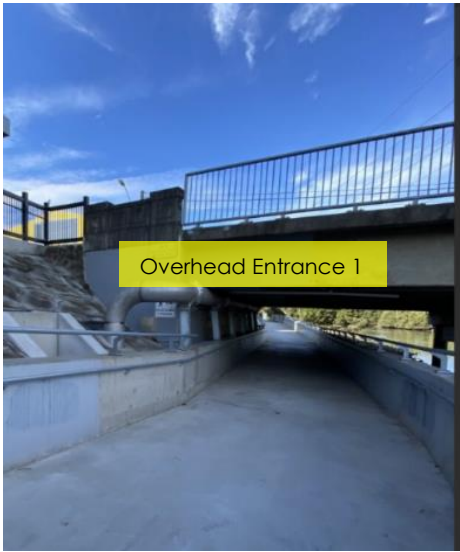
IMPORTANT: Artists must conduct their own site inspections to confirm measurements and understand surface conditions.



The locations are indicated below:



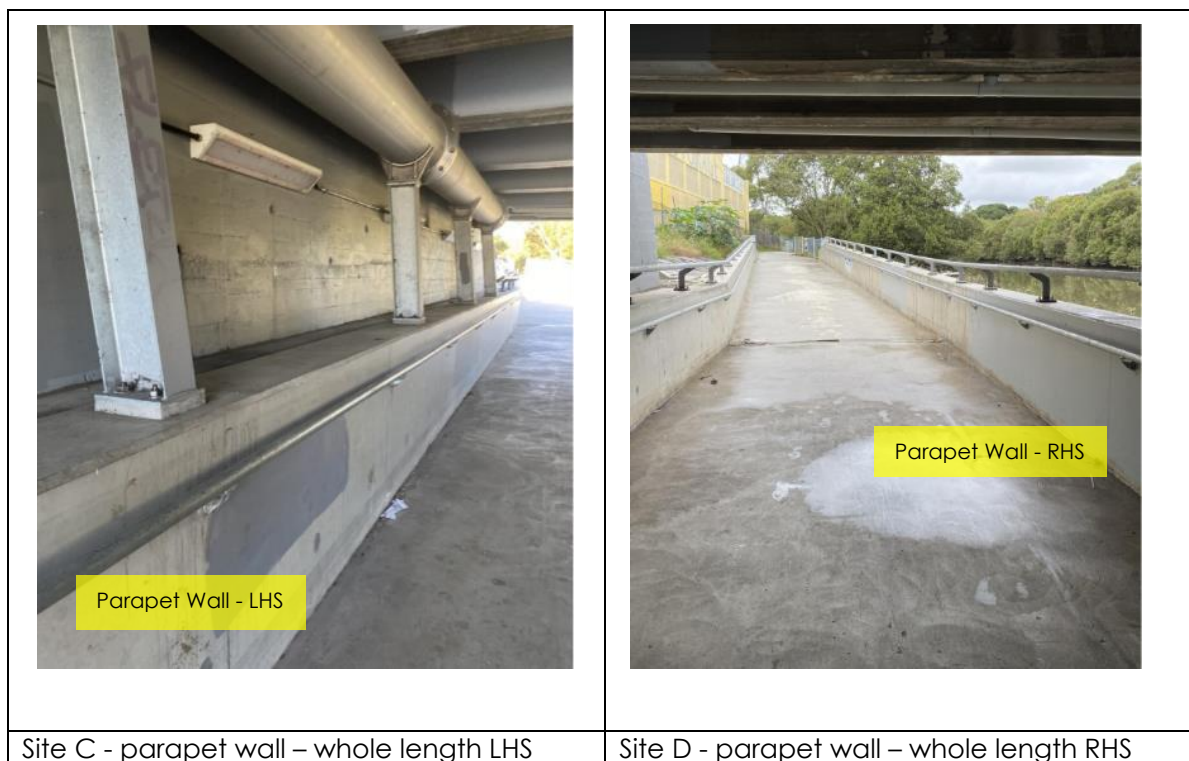
Site A: main mural area: high wall and parapet wall (length of the mural area only)



Site B: overhead entrance 1



Site B: overhead entrance 2



1.4 Timeline for completion

The following table outlines the project stages, criteria and key dates:

Stages	Criteria	Responsibility	Due Dates
Stage 1	EOI submission close	Artist	11:59pm 15/12/2025
Stage 1	EOI shortlist notification	Council	19/12/2025
Stage 2	Design proposal submission	Artist	11:59pm 01/02/2026
Stage 2	Nominated artist notification	Council	17/02/2026
Stage 3	Artist contract awarded, preliminary design sign-off	Council	23/02/2026*
Stage 4	Community engagement and/or workshops, final mural artwork sign-off (by Council) mural installation completion	Artist	24/02/2026 - 26/04/2026*

* Dates are indicative at this stage and may be subject to change.



2. Eligibility criteria

Applicants are encouraged to apply if they meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrated experience in large-scale public murals or similar projects, including tunnel or underpass artworks. Relevant examples should be showcased through a portfolio, website, or social media channels.
- Demonstrated experience working in outdoor and/or river environments is considered a strong advantage, demonstrating the ability to work safely and effectively in variable conditions and in sites exposed to weather, moisture, or public interaction.
- Demonstrated experience in community engagement and collaborative design processes, including facilitating workshops, consulting with community groups and integrating feedback into final design solutions.
- Demonstrated experience in delivering durable, low maintenance artworks, using materials and techniques suitable for long-term public display, including resistance to weathering, vandalism and environmental exposure.
- Availability to meet project timelines, as outlined in **Section 5. Important dates**, ensuring all stages from concept development through installation are completed within the prescribed schedule.
- Compliance with safety and regulatory requirements, including adherence to site protocols, permits and workplace health and safety standards, is mandatory.

3. Scope of works: artist fulfilment criteria

3.1 Stage 1: EOI submission

All submissions are to be provided to the project owner via link [[EOI Application](#)] and must follow the requirement formats:

- PDF format for all written proposals and images (all images must be clear and high resolution).
- A written concept proposal (max. 500 words)
- Links to portfolios or social media profiles showcasing relevant large scale and/or public facing artwork are encouraged.

Applicants must submit the following:

- a) Portfolio links and biography - provide links to a professional portfolio and/or social media profiles showcasing relevant large-scale, public-facing mural experience. Include a brief biography outlining your artistic background, practice and approach.
- b) Concept proposal (max. 500 words) - outline the proposed theme, creative approach and execution methodology. Artists are encouraged to include supporting imagery, sketches, or reference materials to strengthen the written proposal.
- c) Statement of interest - provide a short statement explaining your motivation for participating in this project and how your practice aligns with the project vision and community context.



- d) Estimated budget for each site (A, B, C and D) - submit itemised costings for each potential mural site to enable Council to assess and award one or multiple locations as required.
- e) Availability confirmation - confirm your capacity to complete all works by 26 April 2026*, in accordance with the project schedule. (Dates are subject to change – applicant will be informed of any change)

3.2 Stage 2: design submission

Shortlisted artists will be invited to submit a design advancing their initial proposal into a refined mural concept that clearly aligns with the project theme “our river, our future.” This phase focuses on strengthening the artistic vision and ensuring the design responds meaningfully to the ecological, cultural and historical significance of the Cooks River and the Canterbury community.

Additionally, stage 2 requires a clearly defined and developed community engagement plan, project methodology and delivery process, address coordination and compliance requirements and the framework for final artwork installation.

All stage 2 submissions and specific criteria, which will be provided in a detailed Request for Quotation document, are to be submitted to the project owner and must follow the required formats:

- PDF format for all written proposals and images (all images must be high resolution).
- A written design proposal (max. 1000 words)
- Artwork concepts for each site (PDF)
- Updated cost estimated for each site (A, B, C and D)

Shortlisted applicants must submit the following:

- a) Detailed design proposal (max. 1000 words)

A written, comprehensive mural concept that reflects the unique character of the Cooks River, highlighting its environmental significance, local stories, and historical context. The concept should clearly demonstrate how the proposed design will activate and transform the underpass environment, enhancing the experience of pedestrians and cyclists while fostering community pride and strengthening the community's connection to place.

Applicants must also submit a visual element for each site in PDF format, illustrating the proposed artwork and its placement. The design must present a cohesive visual narrative across one or up to four mural sites, ensuring continuity, visual flow, and consistent thematic interpretation throughout the Cooks River Cycleway area.

- b) Community engagement plan

Demonstrate a detailed community engagement plan, which should include the following initiatives:

- Engage meaningfully with local community groups or representatives to inform the concept development and ensure community voices contribute to the final design.



- Lead community workshops, feedback sessions, or meetings, responding constructively to community input and adjusting the design where appropriate.
- Participate in Council run initiatives including public consultations, pop-up events, design presentations, or digital engagement activities. The artist may be asked to provide visual materials, speak to the project's intent, or contribute to community-facing communication efforts.

c) Outlined project methodology and delivery

Provide a fully detailed execution methodology that outlines:

- Surface preparation, priming requirements and use anti-graffiti coating.
- Proposed materials, tools and equipment.
- Safety management strategies and risk control measures.
- Step-by-step installation process and estimated timelines.
- Confirmation of mural project delivery as outlined in **Section. 5 important dates**

Note: ensure all proposed techniques and materials meet professional mural standards and are appropriate for long-term outdoor installation.

d) Coordination and compliance

Artist to address the following items:

- Coordinate closely with Council teams regarding site access, scheduling, or pedestrian considerations and any required permits or approvals.
- Liaise regularly with Council throughout the entire project lifecycle, providing progress updates, seeking site-specific information and addressing any unforeseen challenges in a timely and transparent manner.
- Collaborate with Council to refine, review and finalise the design scope prior to execution, ensuring that the concept aligns with project objectives and community expectations. The artist must obtain formal Council sign-off on the final artwork design, materials, placement and methodology before any onsite work begins.
- Discuss and agree upon any requested adjustments to the concept or methodology with Council to maintain clarity and alignment across all stages of the project.
- Attend project meetings, site inspections, or briefings as required to ensure alignment with Council expectations and project milestones.

e) Artwork delivery framework

- Deliver the final mural to a high-quality, professional and durable standard, ensuring longevity, visual impact and community relevance.
- Ensure the finished artwork is consistent with the approved concept design unless otherwise agreed upon with Council.

3.2 Materials

- Must be safe, sustainable, durable and compliant with Australian Standards.
- Resistant to weather, water exposure and vandalism.
- Able to be easily cleaned and maintained.



3.3 Maintenance considerations

- The artist must provide a maintenance program to assist Council manage long-term upkeep of the mural. This should include a contingency plan for vandalism or defacement, outlining strategies for prevention, monitoring and response.
- The maintenance plan should specify any additional costs should the artist be required to undertake rectification works. This amount will be confirmed by Council during contract finalisation.
- Artwork lifespan is estimated at 10 years, after which decommissioning, renewal or replacement may be considered at Council's discretion.



4. Budget and funding

Due to the presence of multiple potential mural sites, some locations may be activated immediately while others may be delivered at a later stage at Council's discretion. By providing clear, site-specific costings, artists enable Council to assess options effectively and select one or multiple sites in line with project priorities and funding availability.

- Artists are required to provide detailed, site-specific costings for each proposed site (site A, B, C and D)
- Following the final selection process, the commissioned artist will enter a fixed fee contract with Council. This contract will outline the agreed scope, payment schedule, deliverables and all relevant terms and conditions associated with delivering the artwork.
- An additional line item must be included for considerations to manage vandalism or defacement of the artwork. The amount for this item will be confirmed by Council during contract finalisation.

Shortlisted artists will receive a once-off payment of \$300 AUD to support the development of their detailed design submissions. This payment acknowledges the time, labour and creative effort required to produce high-quality concept designs for final assessment.

5. Important dates

Stages	Criteria	Responsibility	Due Dates
Stage 1	EOI open	Council	02/12/2025
Stage 1	EOI close	Artist	11:59pm 15/12/2025
Stage 1	EOI shortlist notification	Council	19/12/2025
Stage 2	Design proposal submission	Artist	11:59pm 01/02/2026
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* Dates are indicative at this stage and may be subject to change.

6. Terms and conditions

6.1 Copyright and ownership

- Artist retains copyright of the final artwork
- Artwork cannot be replicated without Council permission
- Council holds the right to reproduce images for non-profit purposes with credit to the artist



6.2 Insurance and liability

Artists must hold valid Public Liability Insurance covering the project period.

6.3 Permits and approvals

Council will manage required approvals for installation.

6.4 Collaboration expectations

Artists must work respectfully and collaboratively with community members and project stakeholders.

All public interactions must follow professional and ethical standards.

6.5 Duty of care

Artists must ensure the artwork:

- Meets Australian standards.
- Contains no protrusions, hazards, or entrapment risks.
- Uses safe materials.
- Creates no trip, slip, or fall hazards.

6.6 Decommissioning

Council may remove the artwork for vandalism, deterioration, or safety concerns. Every effort will be made to notify the artist beforehand.

6.7 Contact for enquiries

All enquiries are to be sent directly to the Project Owner.

Project owner: Nicole Vera

Email: place.improvement@cbc.city.nsw.gov.au

Mobile: 0437 532 043

7. Reference links:

Our Backyard River catchment-wide collaboration project website:

<https://ourbackyardriver.com.au/>

Cooks River Alliance website:

<https://cooksriver.org.au/>

State Library NSW, Dictionary of Sydney (archived in 2021), online at:

<https://dictionaryofsydney.org/place/canterbury>

Bronwyn Hanna independent academia, online at:

<https://www.bhhh.com.au/files/Appendix%201.%20History%20Timeline%20Sugar%20House.pdf>

NSW Government, last updated 2005. "Prout's Bridge over Cooks River", Section 170

Heritage Register listing for Roads & Maritime Services, online at:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=4309574