Merriwa Silo Public Art Project
Expression of Interest

June 2017
**Project Description**
This is a site specific project to be located on the front facade of the Merriwa Silos. The project budget incorporates all costs including artist fees, production of artwork, installation, certification and compliance costs. The silo is owned by GrainCorp. Council will be entering into an agreement with GrainCorp to facilitate the artwork. The proposed art work was identified as a high priority project in the Merriwa Town Centre Master Plan 2016.

**Proposed Process**
This is an open request for expressions of interest from experienced artists. The intention is that from the responses received, a selection committee consisting of Merriwa community members, Upper Hunter Shire Council and Arts Upper Hunter, will shortlist up to three artists. The short listed artists will be interviewed, preferably in person at Merriwa or if distance to travel is too great, by telephone or Skype.

The successful artist will be required to enter into a contract with Upper Hunter Shire Council and GrainCorp for the project.

**Concept**
The concept for the work should focus on the themes of the local community including its historical and/or agricultural ties. Merriwa is a town of 1790 people (2011 census) that serves the local cropping and grazing industries located on the Golden Highway, midway between Newcastle and Dubbo the town is a tourist and transport service town.

The Artwork would need to meet the GrainCorp policy document “Consideration of Community Artworks” copy attached.

**EOI Submission**
The aim of the EOI is to enable the Committee to assess the following items:
- The artist’s genre, originality and general inventiveness as evidenced by previous works and commissions.
- The artist’s ability to complete the work within schedule and on budget.

**Proposal and Support Material**
The EOI submission must include:
- The artist’s CV, no longer than three pages OR if working in a collective a group CV, no longer than five pages in total.
- Examples of previous works (maximum ten images, with appropriate captions
- Artist statement/design philosophy.
- A brief statement indicating how you might respond to the brief if your EOI is successful
- A list of previous completed commissions, including contact details of a referee for each commission.
- Experience in working at heights and an elevated work platform (EWP) qualification or a willingness to obtain one.
- Evidence of necessary insurance.

The EOI is to be no more than ten pages (CV, examples of work, artist statement etc) in total, submitted electronically.

**Applicant Responsibilities**
The responsibilities of the shortlisted applicants include:
- Within the time frame allocated, to further refine and develop initial concept.
- If shortlisted, present their final submission to the panel by 31 July 2017.
- All safety permits and requirements are the responsibility of the artist.

Any costs associated with these responsibilities must be budgeted for within the shortlisted applicant’s fee.

**Estimate**
The Artist is to provide an estimate of costs to create the commission of a large scale mural on the Merriwa silos. All material costs, artist’s fees, insurances, labour plant, equipment and cost of installation are to be covered by the estimate.
foster a sense of pride within the community and further, provide a significant tourism and economic boost to the area.

**Site**

The location of the artwork will be on the silos in Merriwa which are situated in Macartney Street, Merriwa.

Being on the Golden Highway, the route experiences high traffic resulting in great exposure for the community, the artwork and the artist.

**Submission Timeframe**

The Expressions of Interest (EOI) period opens Monday 19th June 2017 and closes at 5pm on Monday 10th July 2017 AEDST.

The indicative key dates for the process are outlined below. Please note these dates are subject to change and artist availability. Installation dates will be discussed with the successful artist.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artist brief released to public</td>
<td>19 June 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions closing date</td>
<td>10 July 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short listing process including notification of successful and unsuccessful artists</td>
<td>24 July 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortlisted artists interviews</td>
<td>31 July 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist notified</td>
<td>4 August 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation</td>
<td>Must be complete by 10 November 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Launch</td>
<td>Nov/Dec 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Project Objectives**

The intention is to develop a high quality large scale public artwork/mural on the Silos situated in the Merriwa community.

It is hoped this large scale public art project will give the Merriwa community its own tourism product, having the capacity to reinvigorate and

- The work should be suitable for a public environment.
- The artwork should be of a format and materials suitable for a public space.
- The artwork is to be created from quality materials and be durable.
- Risk Management and Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) must be taken into consideration. Site specific WHS plans must be submitted with safe work method statements before the commencement of installation.
- A range of external permits and/or approvals may be required to complete a project.
Relevant permits, including relevant insurance policies, may include:

- Working at height permit
- Permit to operate any machinery required (i.e. elevating work platform)
- Public liability insurance
- Personal Accident Insurance
- Any other requirements of the silo owners, GrainCorp.

Public Art Principles

The development and implementation of public art projects and initiatives is guided by the following principles:

- To develop projects that are of the highest level of creativity, artistic excellence, and innovation.
- To challenge and stimulate audiences and the wider community.
- To communicate the unique identity, spirit and heritage of the whole of the Upper Hunter Shire Local Government Area, including its villages and its neighborhoods.
- To recognise and promote the social and cultural diversity of the community.
- To stimulate cultural tourism and the visitor economy.
- To support projects that highlight the unique characteristics and fragile ecosystem of the local natural environment.
- That all projects and programs are carried out in a fair and transparent manner, and in accordance with industry best practice.
- To foster collaboration across all levels of government, community and non-government stakeholders and the business sector.

Upper Hunter Shire Council will continue to contribute to the Shire’s vibrancy and character with innovative ideas and concepts to create experiences that are universally accessible to our community and visitors.

Contact

For further information, your questions and EOI should be submitted to:

Upper Hunter Shire Council
Post: PO Box 208
SCONE NSW 2337
Email: council@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au
Phone: 02 6540 1100

Support Documents

Merriwa – Town Centre Masterplan


Attachments

- Attachment 1: Image of Merriwa Silos
- Attachment 2: Maps of Merriwa Silo site
- Attachment 3: GrainCorp policy document: Consideration of Community Artwork.
Attachment 1: Image of Merriwa Silos
POLICY DOCUMENT: Consideration of community artworks

GrainCorp is a proud and active member of the many communities around the world in which we operate. We seek to support community-led projects that contribute to the economic health, infrastructure, safety and wellbeing of our regional communities.

In addition to the work of our Community Fund and the in-kind support of our local teams around our network, GrainCorp occasionally receives requests for public art works or other installations at its sites.

This policy has been developed to help community groups understand GrainCorp’s approach to these requests and the considerations that we take into account when determining whether or not to proceed with potential projects.

GrainCorp sites were generally built for receiving, storing and loading grain in large, bulk quantities. Given they were not built with artwork in mind, we need to take a sensible, risk management approach to considering proposals. As such, there are several health and safety requirements that must be met to ensure the site is safe for those involved in the project and members of the public.

Submitting a proposal

To be considered, any proposed project must have the demonstrated support of the local council, community group(s) and broader community.

Community groups wishing to discuss a proposed project with GrainCorp must provide at a minimum:

- A detailed design concept
- Artist’s name and portfolio
- Details of local government & community group support
- Details of how the project would be funded
- Proposed project timeline

Eligible proposals

GrainCorp will consider proposals involving artwork focused on:

- The local community and/or its history
- Farming, grain and food production
- Life in a regional area
- Safety

Artwork that is commercial in nature (including, but not limited to, advertising), or which could be considered to be a political or religious statement will not be considered.

Permanent artwork will not be considered for operational sites however consideration may be given to temporary lighting installations (more information below).

GrainCorp also reserves the right to consult with relevant stakeholders about the quality and suitability of the proposal for a particular local area, prior to advising of its decision. Please note that ultimately, the decision to approve or reject a proposal remains GrainCorp’s alone as the site owner. Site access will not be provided until the final concept is approved and all relevant permits, approvals and insurances are in place.

While it is unfortunately not possible to agree to every request, we are committed to working constructively with those local councils or community groups who wish to engage us with a proposal. We will keep you updated on its progress and provide feedback to help you understand our approach.
What we will consider

In addition to the design concept, GrainCorp will need to consider a range of additional factors as part of its consideration of an application:

- Location and orientation of silo/facility
- Exposure and road access
- Visibility from nearby roads/vantage points
- Local planning laws and requirements

A range of external permits and/or approvals will be required to complete a project. We will work with the community to ensure that these are in place before work commences, however these cannot be provided by GrainCorp and may come at a cost. Relevant permits, including relevant insurance policies, may include:

- Working at height permit
- Permit to operate any machinery required (i.e. cherry picker)
- Public liability insurance
- Personal Accident Insurance

Other considerations

Road safety – state road authorities such as VICRoads (Victoria), TMR (QLD) and RMS (NSW) and local councils may need to be consulted to ensure that any signage, changes to speed limits and parking access necessitated by the artwork meet their requirements.

Ongoing maintenance – the artwork will remain the responsibility of the commissioning local community / council. This may include occasional maintenance of the artwork which will require arrangements to be made for access to the relevant site or (if considered more appropriate by GrainCorp) the entering of a lease or licence agreement on terms acceptable to GrainCorp given the nature of the artwork and/or site. General maintenance of site assets will remain the responsibility of GrainCorp.

Funding – while GrainCorp will support the project and provide operational support, the funding of the project must be provided by the community. Costs may include machinery hire such as cherry pickers, insurance premiums, the upgrading of fencing/access ways, materials, travel and accommodation.

Temporary artwork – in some cases, temporary artwork may be projected onto GrainCorp silos. For example, GrainCorp’s Newcastle silos have regularly been lit up in different colours to support community initiatives such as Breast Cancer Awareness week. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Safety – the project coordinators will be responsible for ensuring safe practices for the carrying out of the works. This will require the completion and documentation of risk assessments for all tasks as well as undertakings that toxic chemicals or other noxious products will not be used.

Next steps

If you believe your project falls within the above guidelines and would like to discuss the project in more detail, please contact your local GrainCorp office and ask to speak with the Regional Manager.

We will endeavour to get back to you with an initial response within 5 business days. Thank you for considering using a GrainCorp site for your community project and we look forward to exploring your project’s potential.