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22 SEPTEMBER 2023

Aboriginal artists encouraged to get involved in special art commission for NSW Parliament House

Expressions of interest are open for NSW-based Aboriginal artists to be considered for the creation of a large-scale painting, drawing or mixed media piece to be on permanent display at NSW Parliament House on Macquarie Street.

The special artwork is being commissioned by the Upper House of the Parliament, the NSW Legislative Council, in honour of its 2024 Bicentenary year.

"The Bicentenary is an opportunity to reflect on our past, to celebrate our progress, and to imagine our future," said President of the Legislative Council the Honourable Ben Franklin.

"The artwork will form a truly important part of our Bicentenary, incorporating the spirit of reconciliation and exploring the relationship between Aboriginal communities and the Parliament."

The artist selected for this commission will be asked to create a piece that responds to the question, *'Where do we want to be in another 200 years?'*.

Expressions of interest (EOIs) for the paid commission are being managed by Create NSW on behalf of the Council. Interested artists must submit an application before 5pm on Thursday 19 October via www.bit.ly/bicentenary-EOI.

From the EOIs received, an assessment panel including First Nations arts assessors and representatives of the Parliament will select a shortlist of artists. Those shortlisted will be invited to develop proposed concepts for the artwork, before a final artist is selected.

Steven Collins, the Parliament's Senior Aboriginal Liaison Officer and a proud Pitta Pitta man, says the commission is about much more than art.

"A vital element of Bicentenary activities, this artwork is going to spotlight Aboriginal worldviews and contribute to an important conversation about shaping a vision for our shared future."

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Interviews with Senior Aboriginal Liaison Officer Steven Collins available.

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