



Aboriginal artist panel: Expression of Interest



Government of
South Australia

Program overview: Art on Infrastructure



The opportunity

We are seeking expressions of interest from talented Aboriginal Artists to join our Panel of Artists for upcoming public art and mural projects across Kurna Country. Successful applicants will have the opportunity to transform SA Water infrastructure into meaningful landmarks that celebrate and preserve First Nations culture and storytelling.



Our canvas, your vision

While the essential role of SA Water's statewide network of water towers, pump stations, storage tanks, and pipelines is to deliver safe, clean drinking water, these assets also provide a canvas for public art. Large-scale murals play a critical role in creating vibrant, connected communities. Through our [Art on Infrastructure program](#), we collaborate with artists and communities to celebrate the significance of water and its connection to local culture and community.



Cultural integrity and partnership with KYAC

SA Water is deeply committed to respectful engagement and ensuring the cultural integrity of all visual storytelling on traditional lands. For projects delivered on Kurna Country, we're proud to be working in partnership with the [Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation](#) (KYAC). To respect cultural authority and protocol, all final artwork designs for these assets will be reviewed and approved by KYAC representatives.



A track record of success

By joining our Panel, you are aligning with an established, highly celebrated program. Our growing state-wide collection features national, award-winning public art. This expansive outdoor gallery already spans from Adelaide's northern suburbs, through the hills, deep into the Riverland, and weaves into the famous Yorke Peninsula Art Trail.



Minlacowie Tank



Community and artistic benefits

This project transforms public infrastructure into culturally meaningful landmarks that showcase local heritage, connection to the environment, and reconciliation. By embedding Aboriginal cultural representation into highly visible community assets, it enhances public spaces, supports local economies, and fosters community pride.



Who we are looking for

SA Water is committed to reconciliation and celebrating the connection of Traditional Owners to the land and waterways of South Australia. If you identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artist, have experience in large-scale mural work, or are willing to be mentored by an experienced artist — we encourage you to apply. We are seeking creators who can authentically engage with local cultural themes, and deliver durable, striking visual stories. This panel ensures targeted access to major cultural storytelling opportunities, supported by KYAC.



Ready to make your mark?

Please submit your application with all supporting documentation, as outlined in section 6 of the following Expression of Interest, directly to sally.denton@sawater.com.au by Friday 16 October.

Expression of interests (EOI) - mural artist

1. About SA Water & Acknowledgement

SA Water acknowledges Aboriginal peoples as Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands and waters across South Australia and commits to reconciliation through respectful relationships, cultural recognition and opportunities, as outlined in our 2024–27 Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

2. Purpose of this EOI

SA Water invites EOIs from Aboriginal artists (individuals or collectives) to register for possible selection to design and deliver a culturally appropriate mural at our sites on Kurna Land over the next 2 years. Shortlisted respondents may be asked to develop a concept proposal and attend a site visit. Artist fees for site visits may be applicable.

3. Project overview

- **Site:** SA Water sites across Kurna Land and may range from tanks, towers, buildings and pipelines.
- **Theme of future artwork:** Connection to water, Country, community and place
- **Indicative time frame:** Site and project dependent
- **Budget range:** Each project identified will include the opportunity to quote for the work including materials, labour, insurances etc.
- **Procurement context:** This EOI is conducted under SA Water's supplier processes and SA Government procurement governance. Shortlisted respondents may be invited to a competitive Request for Quote/Tender.

4. Scope

The successful artist(s) will:

- Research and design appropriate artwork relevant to the Kurna people with the final artwork to be approved by SA Water.
- Have connection/affiliation with Kurna through connection with Country, family/kinship, cultural authority, shared history or through connection to Elders, knowledge holders, families or organisations who live locally and maintain relationships with Kurna Country.

- Deliver a mural suitable for an operational asset in line with SA Water Art on Infrastructure criteria.
- Work safely within site constraints and schedules.
- Be open to mentoring and collaborating with an emerging Aboriginal artist, providing skills transfer during delivery.
- Engage respectfully with relevant local community stakeholders.

5. Safety, training and compliance (mandatory or “willing to obtain” before site works)

- SA Water site induction and compliance with SA Water Work Health and Safety requirements.
- White Card (CPCWHS1001) — construction induction.
- Working at Heights competency/ticket (if required by the site/method).
- High Risk Work Licence (HRWL) - if operation specific high-risk machinery.
- Ability to prepare/adhere to A Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) and follow risk controls (fall prevention hierarchy).
- Insurances: Public liability [\$20M], personal accident/worker cover for team.

Note: Applicants without all current tickets are encouraged to state willingness and plan to obtain prior to commencement of work. SA Water is willing to assist with this if required.



6. Eligibility

- Aboriginal artist(s) or Aboriginal collectives
- Based in South Australia or with strong connection to the local area/Country relevant to the site.
- Demonstrated capacity to deliver public/ large-scale work (or partnered with suitable installers).

7. What to Submit (your EOI)

- **Artist details:** (name, Nation/community if you wish to share, ABN if applicable, contact).
- **Artist statement:** (≤500 words) on practice and approach to public art.
- **Connection to Place:** (≤300 words): ties to local area/Country/community.
- **Portfolio:** Link to website, Instagram, online folio, or attach PDF with relevant mural/large scale examples.
- **Experience with/interest in painting:**
Please indicate which water infrastructure you have experience with and/or are interested in painting: water tanks, water towers, pump stations/buildings, or pipelines.
- **Safety & compliance:** tickets held (White Card, Working at Heights), SWMS familiarity, insurances; or plan to obtain.
- **Mentoring approach (≤300 words):** how you will mentor an emerging Aboriginal artist.

8. Cultural safety and intellectual property

Please indicate your approach to cultural safety, permissions and custodianship of cultural elements. Final IP and licensing will be negotiated at contract stage in line with SA Government best practice-procurement and SA Water policies.

9. Assessment and next steps

EOIs will be assessed against the criteria and weightings by nominated KYAC Board Members and SA Water staff.

When appropriate opportunities arise, shortlisted artists may be invited to attend a site briefing and prepare a quote. Please note, SA Water will consider the value for money in all offers received. It is expected all offers will be in line with standard market rates and concept developments will be paid for. Should artwork be selected for progression, the artist will be required to confirm delivery logistics, including a detailed project timeline, an overview of the team structure (including any sub-contractors), a list of proposed materials, and preferred site access methods or building requirements (e.g., EWP, scaffolding, or ground-level access). Artists will also need to confirm readiness to engage via the SA Water Supplier Portal and acceptance of SA Water Purchase Order T&Cs, if contracted via Purchase Order.

Please note: SA Water will provide assistance with procurement set up processes if required.

For any assistance with this documentation or for further information please contact Sally Denton on 0424 431 195 or sally.denton@sawater.com.au.

