



7 June 2021

City of Newcastle  
Attention: Priscilla Emmitt  
PO Box 489  
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

**RE: DA2017/01399 – SECTION 4.55 (1A) MODIFICATION APPLICATION – CONDITION 78 PUBLIC ART WORKS**

Dear Priscilla,

Thank you for your time corresponding in relation to this proposed modification. As discussed, we are working on behalf of the applicant, Thirdi 38 Hannell Pty Ltd, to deliver the mixed use residential development at 38 Hannell Street, Wickham. Council approved this development under DA2017/01399.

We request that Condition 78 be modified to allow release of the Final Occupation Certificate prior to completion of the Public Art works.

**BACKGROUND**

The subject site previously contained a mural of an Aboriginal boys face, which was required to be demolished to construct the development. Part of this development has included the integration of public art to the site and surrounding area. Council's Public Art Reference Group (PARG) has previously reviewed the proposed works prior to advising us to work with Council's Guraki Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

We have been working very closely with representatives from Guraki Committee from the onset of this project to date which has been very rewarding and provided many local cultural insights.

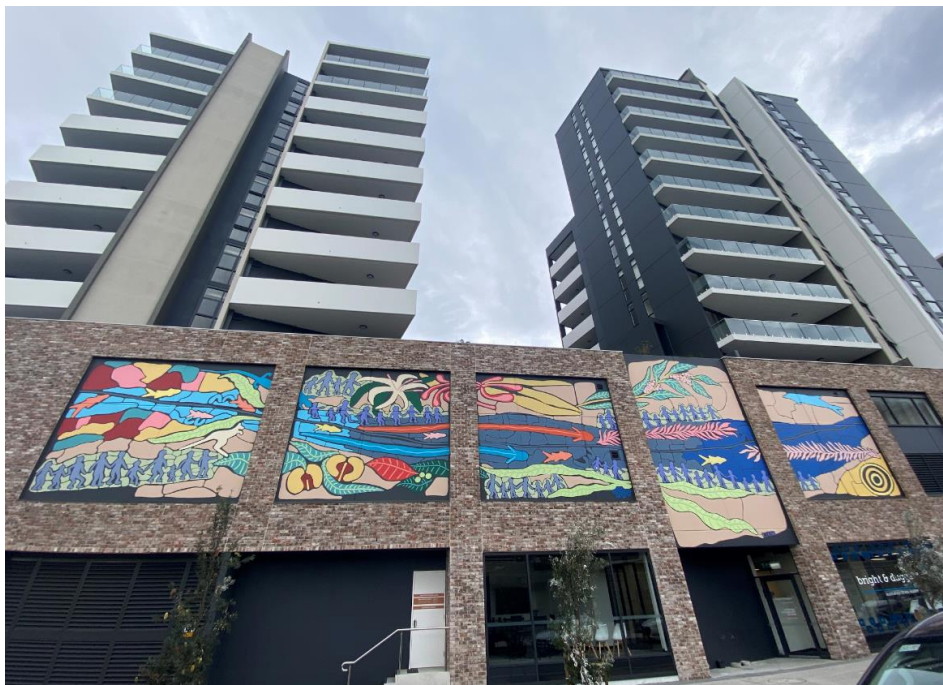
The proposed locations and general concepts initially developed on behalf of the developer is shown in Figure 1 below. Since the development of the initial Public Art Brief, there has been several reiterations of the design and proposed deliverables based on input from the Guraki Committee members.





**Figure 1 – Public Locations and Details**

We have been able to delivery Part 5 of the overall public art strategy, including works completed to a nearby development on Station St Wickham by local artist Jasmine Craciun. Please see Figure 2 below for details. This image shows the Connections, journeys or communal gatherings for ceremonial, marriage, river/sea transport or trading purposes, etc between the local saltwater peoples and fresh water Aboriginal peoples.



**Figure 2 – Public Art Works by Jasmine Craciun**

Further, the interpretive mural shown as Part 4 of the is in the process of being installed. This interpretive mural will be installed prior to completion of the building works. Please see Figure 3 below for a 3D model showing the proposed works.



**Figure 3 – Interpretive Mural Details**

For the proposed mural (Part 1) and sculpture works (Part 2 & 3), we are still in the process of working though the final concept design for these public art pieces. We have engaged internationally renown artist Blak Douglas for the mural works and local artist Nicole Monks for the seating and sculpture works.

The main mural piece will depict a local corroboree scene, being a rendition of Lycett’s painting ‘Corroboree at Newcastle’ as there was a corroboree ground in Wickham quite close to the development site modern.

The seating and sculpture will incorporate interpretations of the sea fern, which was an important marine flora for the local Aboriginal people.

Please see below current mural, seating and sculpture concepts in Figures 4, 5 & 6 below.

We are still working with the Guraki Committee and the abovementioned artists to develop the final concepts for the mural and sculptures.



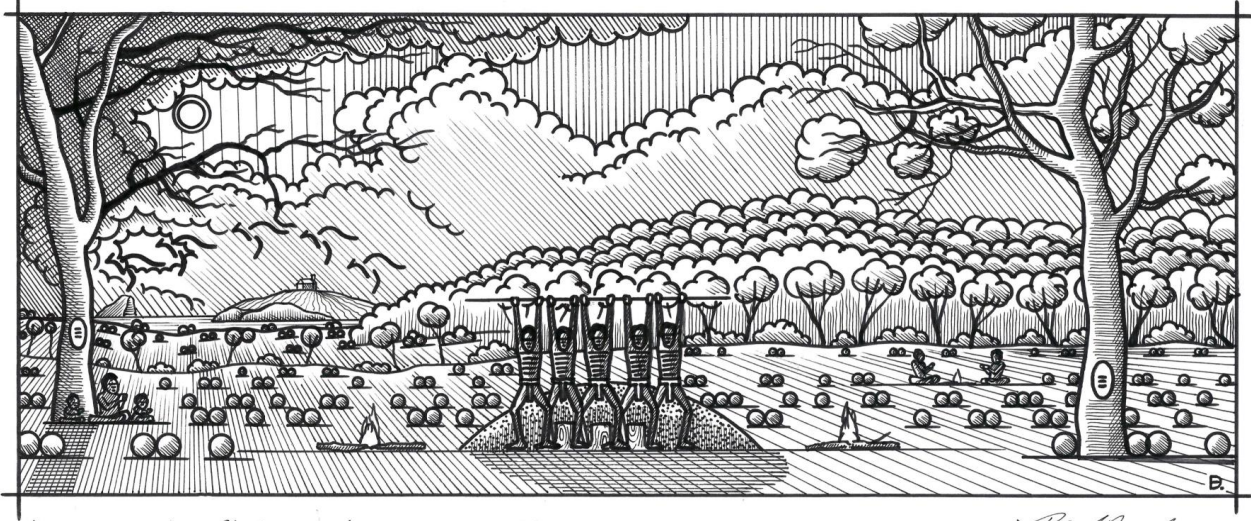


Figure 4 – Concept Mural Design

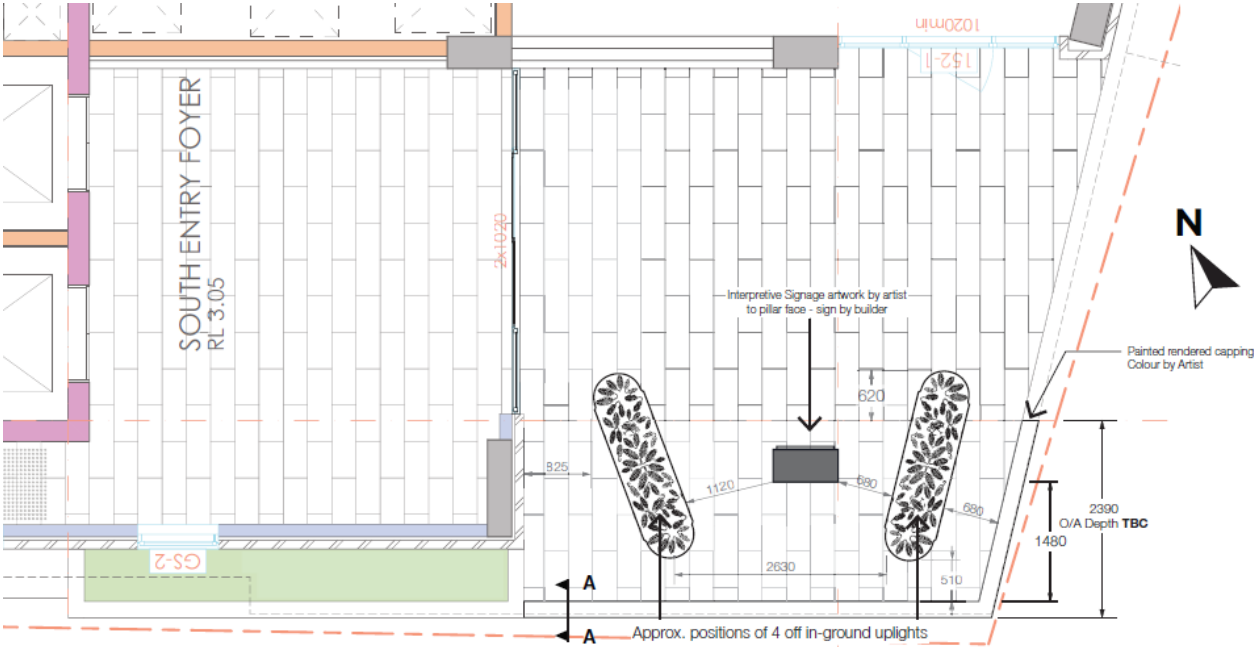


Figure 5 – Concept Seating Design

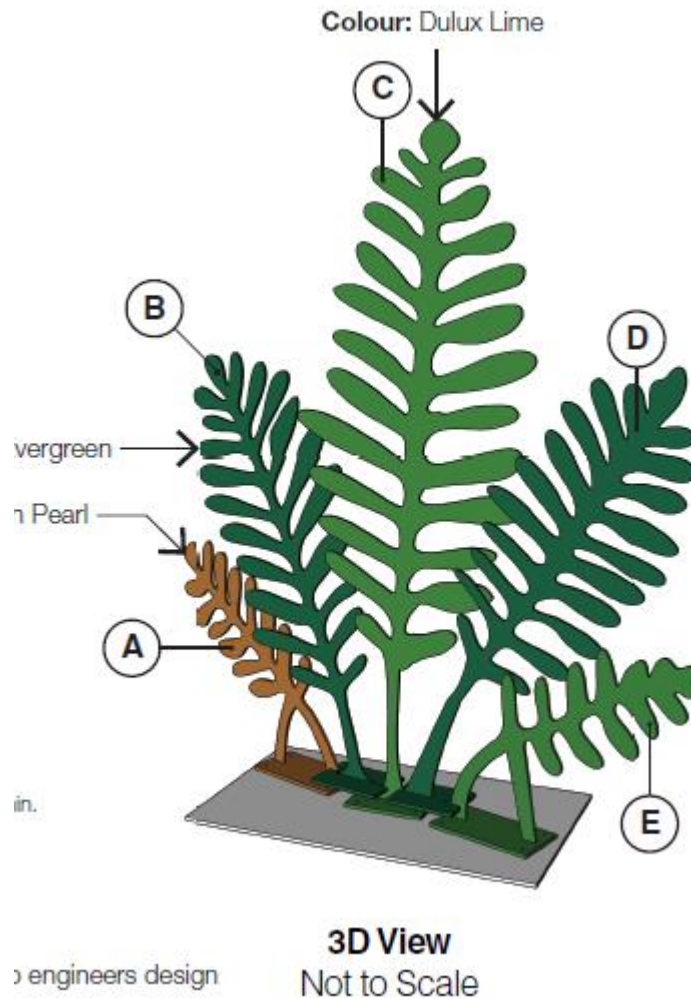


Figure 6 – Concept Sculpture Design

**PROPOSED S4.55 MODIFICATION – MODIFY CLAUSE 78**

The proposed modification made under this s4.55 modification seeks to amend Condition 78 of DA2017/01399 approved by the City of Newcastle on 31 March 2018.

78. The public art feature/s is to be installed on site or within the surrounding area prior to the issue of the Final Occupation Certificate.

We’re requesting council amend this condition to allow delivery of the public art after the issuing of Final Occupation Certificate. We anticipate the project in its entirety, with the exception of the public art, will be completed by the 30 June 2021.

However, we anticipate the public art will be completed by the end of September 2021. We request the conditions be changed to require the public art works being completed after Final Occupation Certificate but before 30 September 2021.

**JUSTIFICATION**

We have spent considerable time developing concepts and several reiterations of the designs. In undertaking this project we have learnt a great deal about the Aboriginal heritage in the Wickham locality and Winder Newcastle CBD. These works provide a great opportunity to showcase the significance of the location to the wider community via the highly visual Corrobboree scene mural.

Given the cultural significance of the pieces, we have been keen to collaborate with the Guraki Committee and not rush through the design development.

The consultation with the committee via Guraki, the engagement of suitable artists and then very particular concept planning for the main mural and associated seating and sculptures has taken longer than anticipated as we were determined for a high quality and respectful result.

COVID restrictions have exacerbated the situation making it difficult to import materials for the art works and stock availability within Australia has been limited for the proposed materials for these pieces.

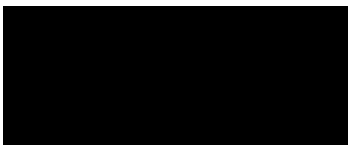
We are fully committed to delivering these works, however given the considerations and issues outlined above have had significant impact on finalising detailed design and the timeframe for completion of the final mural and associated structures.

We are fully committed to delivering these works, as is evidenced by the level of detail provided to date.

Should you require any clarification in relation to the above works being undertaken, please contact the Guraki Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact me to discuss.

Sincerely,



**Nick Whitton**

Catalyst Project Consulting Pty Ltd