

# Have your say:

## Marrickville Dive Site and Sydney Metro Trains Facility South Heritage Interpretation Artwork



The nature surrounding the Unwins Bridge over the Cooks River inspired the artist to create a concept featuring native flora. In particular, the artist was inspired by the Gumbramorra Swamp on the Gadigal lands north of the Cooks River in the Marrickville valley, between Marrickville and Sydenham.

*Image courtesy of the State Library of Victoria [IAN25/02/74/28]*

Sydney Metro is delivering artwork at the Sydney Metro Trains Facility South Site at Marrickville. A draft concept for the design has been developed, which proposes to incorporate indigenous and non-indigenous elements into the artwork. **We are inviting community feedback on the proposed artwork concept.**

### About the proposed artwork

The aim is to provide a heritage interpretation installation design which integrates with the boundary along Railway Parade and Edinburgh Road, in line with the heritage themes and locations identified in the [Marrickville Dive and Sydney Metro Trains Facility South Heritage Interpretation Plan](#).

On behalf of Sydney Metro, Systems Connect has commissioned a **proud Gadigal woman of the Eora nation and neo-contemporary indigenous artist, Konstantina (Kate Constantine)** to develop a draft concept for the installation.

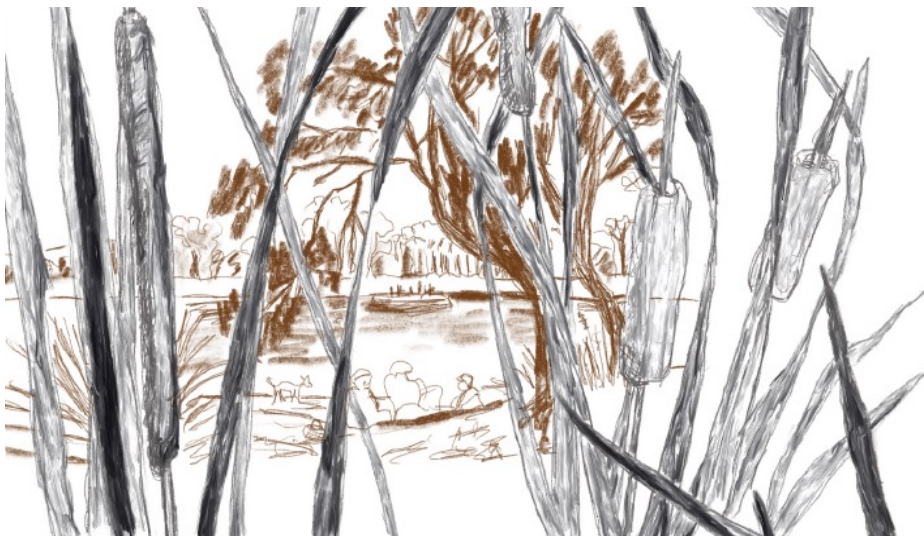
### Draft heritage interpretation design concept

The heritage interpretation artwork aims to communicate the rich history of the site to the community, incorporating indigenous and non-indigenous heritage. An integral part of the precinct, the artwork will uncover the stories of people who historically lived in the area, celebrating their connection to the site.

The artist, Konstantina, is reimagining the traditions of her peoples' dot painters and providing a modern narrative for all Australians to better understand First Nations People.



Initial artist sketch of Baraba reeds to be used in the artwork



Initial artist sketch of Baraba reeds with an example of a "Scene of Country" to be used in the artwork

"The Gadigal,  
and its Baraba  
have piqued  
my interest"

**Kate Constantine**



The native Baraba plant

- Baraba (English translation: bulrushes / typha species) are commonly found in the Sydney Basin swamp lands.
- Baraba was native to the Marrickville area before colonial settlement.
- The Gumbramorra Swamp was covered in more than one kind of the plant.
- These included both "Bulrush" and "Thatch Rush".
- These large and statuesque rushes played an important part in the continuing ecosystem of the Gumbramorra Swamp area.
- It was commonly used in:
  - The basket weaving and string making of the Gadigal and Wangal people.
  - As food, habitat for protein sources and sacred animals.
  - In construction of thatched roofs or as shelter for convicts in post-colonial Sydney.

## What will the proposed artwork look like?



The metal installation is proposed to be placed along the boundary fence at the Edinburgh Road roundabout and be 30 metres long and 3 metres high



Examples of the Baraba reeds incorporated into the metal installation and the smaller detail depicting "Scenes of Country" and post-colonial elements

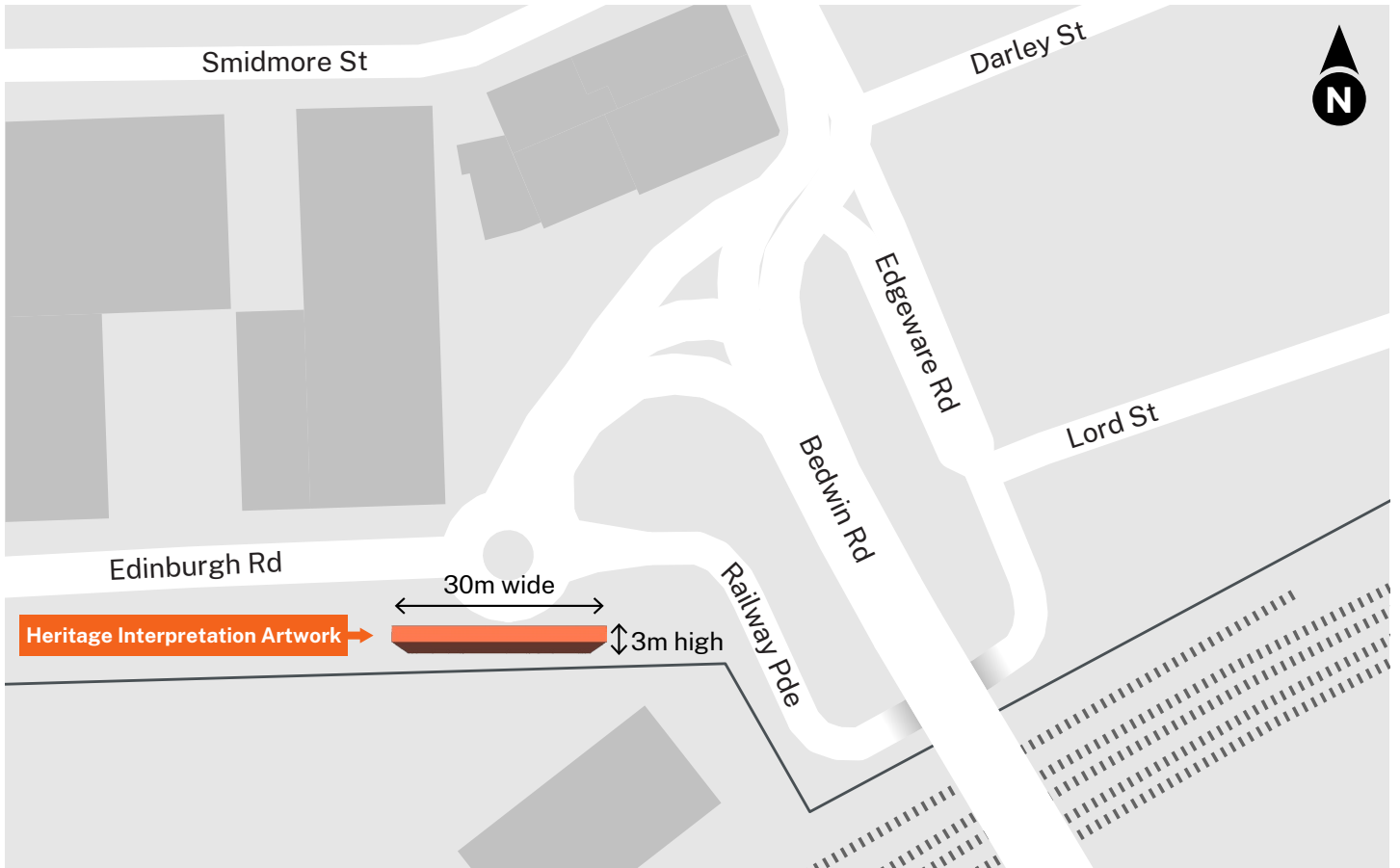
### The artist's interpretation of local heritage elements:

- The artwork proposal includes recreating two metal interpretations of Baraba that will attach to the security fence along Edinburgh Road (see next page for the location).
- These will be layered to create space, which can be seen looking through the reeds.
- The layering of metal and the swaying nature of the reeds will emulate the movement that the reeds would have in a soft breeze.
- Smaller details will be inscribed on metal discs, telling stories from pre and post-colonial times.
- The space and sway of the metal reeds will play to the light, cast at different times of the day, resembling the days of the Gumbramorra Swamp.

“The overall aesthetic will be soft and statuesque”

**Kate Constantine**

# Location of the Heritage Interpretation Artwork



Proposed placement at the Edinburgh Road/Railway Parade roundabout

## Have your say

The draft installation design concept will be **available for public comment between Monday 20 May, 2024 and close of business on Tuesday, 11 June, 2024.**

We encourage you to comment. Please email [linewidemetro@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:linewidemetro@transport.nsw.gov.au) or phone **1800 171 386** if you would like to meet with us to discuss the proposed plans for the site.

Alternatively, please provide your feedback **by close of business on Tuesday, 11 June 2024** via:



Phone: **1800 171 386**



Email [linewidemetro@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:linewidemetro@transport.nsw.gov.au)



Post: Systems Connect Community Engagement team  
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## Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information please contact our project team:

**1800 171 386** Community infoline open 24 hours

[sydneymetro@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sydneymetro@transport.nsw.gov.au)

Sydney Metro City & Southwest  
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## Translating and interpreting service

If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 171 386.