

Climate Conversations 2027 – Project Outline

Climate Conversations invites Northern Rivers artists to collaborate with community and explore ways we can adapt, reorganise, and evolve in the face of climate change through the arts. Central to this initiative is a commitment to projects that engage communities in innovative, participatory, and meaningful ways, fostering dialogue, shared learning, and positive collective action.

In this third iteration of *Climate Conversations*, artists are invited to respond to the climate challenges that face us on a local, national, or global level and propose a collaborative and community-engaged project. Proposals should demonstrate imaginative and inventive approaches to engaging diverse audiences, encouraging active participation, co-creation, or new forms of public interaction in the ideas presented through the exhibition.

In addition, it is expected that the artist/s will develop and deliver at least two public programs that extend and deepen community engagement in creative and accessible ways. These may include, among other things, artist talks, workshops, discussions, field trips, outdoor activations, community-led initiatives, or experimental formats responsive to the project. Additional funding of up to \$2,000 will be provided for the public programs.

The successful applicant will receive an artist's fee of \$5,000 to develop new work, and present a one-month, Council supported, project/exhibition at Lone Goat Gallery, Byron Bay, in 2027.

For application support or any questions regarding the program, please contact: Sarah Harvey, Gallerist at Lone Goat Gallery lonegoatgallery@byron.nsw.gov.au

Key dates

- 15 July 2026: Expression of Interest Opens
- 15 October 2026: Expression of Interest Closes
- 5 November 2026: Successful Artist Advised
- May to June 2027: Exhibition/Project presented at Lone Goat Gallery (to be confirmed)

Objectives

Climate Conversations aims to engage and create space for the Northern Rivers community to discuss and reflect on ideas relating to sustainability, resilience, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Artists are well placed to engage communities in innovative ways, change behaviours and imagine new futures.

Through the delivery of initiatives and education programs, *Climate Conversations* hopes to foster long term behaviour change, while supporting and empowering our community to adapt to and mitigate our impact on climate change.

Climate Conversations is a biennial creative initiative between Lone Goat Gallery and Byron Shire Council.

Project Design Considerations & Assessment Criteria

The panel will assess your project idea in regard to the degree in which it meets the project objectives (outlined above) and also against the following criteria:

1. Audiences, Engagement & Collaboration

Ability to engage audiences in exhibition's development and/or presentation, for example:

- Ability to engage the community in climate conversations through community participation, the exhibition and associated programs
- a clear methodology for engaging with relevant stakeholders,
- if including Aboriginal cultural content demonstrates appropriate permission from local Aboriginal Elders
- supports diverse, accessible cultural expression and participation

2. Context

The proposal is appropriate to the context:

- Appropriately responds to themes based around the Climate and considers sustainability across creative development, fabrication, presentation and promotion.
- Suitability to location and Lone Goat Gallery installation.
- connection with local themes, community values, and stakeholders.
- is developed by a local artist, producer or creative organisation (Northern Rivers based) and are locally determined arts and cultural activities.

3. Viability and Sustainability

Ensures professional project execution through consideration of:

- Realistic timeframe, budget and materials.
- sustainability of materials and concepts, as well as project.
- safety and risk management, if relevant, e.g. art installations.

4. Artistic Merit and Impact

Quality of the project vision, ideas and artistic rationale, contribution to cultural vibrancy and contemporary arts practice including:

- quality of past work, technical skills of the artist/s and demonstrated ability to upscale creative ideas
- artistic impact
- artistic, social, environmental outcomes achieved through the work
- innovation, originality and experimentation
- overall value for money relative to impact.

Artist Teams or Artist/Producer collaborations must nominate one point of contact for all administration and communication with Council.

Artists will be required to complete all relevant Gallery Exhibition documentation as per an agreed Gallery timeline to be discussed with the successful applicant.

Eligibility

The EOI is open to all Northern Rivers' artists, arts producers and artist teams with a demonstrated ability to upscale creative ideas to deliver projects in Byron Shire.

To be eligible to submit an EOI, applicants must be living and residing in the Northern Rivers. Artists from outside the region can also apply if they are partnered with a Northern Rivers artist or can demonstrate a strong connection to the area.

Requirements

- The exhibition/project will be displayed at Lone Goat Gallery.
- The artist/s is Northern Rivers based and demonstrates relevant experience and capacity.
- Installation methodology is appropriately considered and outlined.
- A minimum of two public programs, engaging with the theme, must be delivered and these may include; art workshops, artist talks, school field trips, outdoor activations and outreach, community clean ups or depending on the nature of the artist's project.
- The artwork/ project does not pose a safety risk and meets relevant building and safety standards. The installation and construction documentation of the project is appropriate.
- The timeline for the project is achievable.
- The successful applicant/s will need to hold Public Liability insurance to the value of \$20million, and hold a current Working with Children Check, if applicable to public programs.

Applicants are encouraged to consider the environmental impact of their work and the responsibilities of art and artists, in considering the carbon footprint of their practices.

Projects could consider minimising environmental impact through production and presentation, in relation to:

- materials
- function
- content
- waste
- implementation
- installation
- maintenance

Copyright

The successful artist/creative team will maintain copyright in their submissions.

Council retains permission to use images in promotion of Climate Conversations and the successful EOI recipient in Council promotions. Council will attribute artists in any promotion related to the program.

See the Lone Goat Gallery General Information Guide for more details.

What cannot be funded?

- Money for personal use, operational expenses, capital or equipment purchases.
- Projects delivered outside the Byron Shire.
- Cash prizes or commercial gifts.
- Projects that have already been commenced (funds will not be supplied retrospectively).
- Production costs of films, videos, books or other publications.
- Competitions, Prizes and adjudication fees.
- Fundraising events.

Funding

The successful artist/s will receive an artist's fee of \$5,000 to develop the work, a one-month Council supported exhibition at the Gallery, and up to \$2,000 to support the running of at least two public programs delivered as part of the exhibition.

Assessment Process

A selection committee will assess applications against the criteria and the applicant/s will be notified by 5 November 2026, that their project has been approved for funding.

The funding is allocated at the discretion of Council and subject to budgetary constraints annually.

Projects must be submitted using the online Application Form provided with supporting information attached, if relevant.

Each project will be evaluated based on the assessment criteria by a panel of judges. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Projects must be completed in line with Lone Goat Gallery's exhibition timeframe (see Lone Goat Gallery General Information Guide for details).

