



16 September 2011

Peninsula Link Sculpture Commissions announced

Three stunning new sculptures will be installed along the Peninsula Link freeway project in Melbourne's South East as part of a unique commitment to public art, Project Company Southern Way and McClelland Gallery+Sculpture Park announced.

The **Peninsula Link** sculpture commission had been awarded to **Louise Paramor** for her work ***Panorama Station*** and the first two of the fourteen **Southern Way McClelland Commissions sculptures** have been awarded to **Dean Colls** for his work ***Rex Australis: The King is dead, long live the King*** and to **Phil Price** for his work ***Tree of life***.

The **Peninsula Link** sculpture commission by Louise Paramor will be permanently located at the Peninsula Link/East Link interchange, and the first two **Southern Way McClelland Commissions**, will be installed at two sites adjacent to McClelland, one at Skye Road and one at Cranbourne Road, on the new Peninsula Link freeway.

McClelland Director, Robert Lindsay said 'the public art initiative would help promote Frankston as a cultural hub and provide a talking point for motorists on their journey along the 27 kilometre freeway under construction.

The selection committees for the sculptures were excited by the high quality of submissions which all displayed great imagination and excellent. In particular', continues Lindsay, 'the major piece by Louise Paramor to feature at the Peninsula Link-EastLink interchange captures a special contemporary essence, combining everyday elements in an exciting, new and ambitious way'.

The three works will be installed in early 2013 to coincide with the opening of the freeway, and then every two years until 2037, a new sculpture will be commissioned as part of the **Southern Way McClelland Commission** alternating between the two sites on the Peninsula Link. In total 14 sculptures will be commissioned over the next 25 year period.

After a two year cycle of display on the Peninsula Link freeway these Southern Way McClelland Commissions will form part of McClelland's permanent sculpture collection.

Louise Paramor's *Panorama Station* is iconic and monumental. Built from steel, its highest point reaches 16.5 meters, its base over eleven meters long. The artwork resembles a space-station, a rocket launch-pad or a futuristic engine, conjuring up images from popular culture.

Ten artists from across Australia were invited to submit proposals for the **Peninsula Link** commission. The adjudicating panel included: Greg Andrews, Deputy Director, Policy and Programs, Arts Victoria; Jane Clark, Curatorial Consultant, MONA; David Clements, General Manager, Southern Way; John Fasham of JK Fasham P/L; Robert Lindsay, Director, McClelland Gallery+Sculpture Park; Ken Scarlett OAM; and Jason Smith, Director, Heide Museum of Modern Art.

The committee was excited by the high quality of submissions, 'although all submission displayed great imagination and excellence, Louise Paramour's work captured a special contemporary essence, combining the everyday elements in an exciting, new and ambitious way'.

The **Southern Way McClelland Commission** received 160 proposals from local, interstate and international artists. The commission judging panel was Robert Lindsay Director, McClelland Gallery+Sculpture Park, Jason Smith, Director of Heide Museum of Modern Art, and Robert Owen, sculptor and Adjunct Professor, RMIT University.

Melbourne artist Dean Colls' sculptural practice seeks to excite and nurture a sense of wonder by playing with our perspective of the natural world around us. **Rex Australis** explores the concept of changing fortunes and the transience of existence and acts as a monument to the passing greatness of the sheep industry in contemporary Australia. The site also acts as a gateway between the country and city creating a link to an icon from Australia's farming history.

Rex Australis: The King is dead, long live the King measures 7 x 14 x 6 metres and is made of Corten steel and will be located on a site near the Peninsula Link Skye Road exit.

New Zealand artist Phil Price's name is synonymous with large scale, wind-activated kinetic sculpture. **The Tree of Life** will be 10 metres high and made of carbon fibre, glass fibre, high temperature epoxy, precision bearings and stainless steel and will be located near the Peninsula Link Cranbourne Road exit.

The large tree like form is recognisable with obvious reference to the eucalypt – an Australian icon and will function as a landmark for the natural beauty of the peninsula. The movement is gentle and rhythmic, echoing the rhythmic flow of branches in the wind. Even in large winds the kinetic activity remains slow and gentle in contrast to the speed of the freeway.

Southern Way General Manager David Clements said 'the commission formed part of the company's bid for the major freeway project. Southern Way has made a long term commitment to art in the area with a total of 14 sculptures to be commissioned over the next 25 years'.

'The sculptures', continues Clements, 'will enhance the driver experience along Peninsula Link and will complement the urban and landscape design for the project. Exceptional urban design outcomes with the integration of world class artworks are a key part of the concept and critical to the successful delivery of Peninsula Link. .

The partnership formed between Southern Way and McClelland Gallery+Sculpture Park', adds Clements, 'will ensure the true value of this opportunity for art work integrated within a freeway project is realised for the local community, freeway users and the Australian sculpture community. This outcome is a real demonstration of the value and benefit that can be achieved through the Public Private Partnership delivery model'.

Funding for the sculptures is being donated by Southern Way, Abigroup and RBS (Royal Bank of Scotland).

Robert Lindsay, Director, McClelland Gallery+Sculpture Park and David Clements, General Manager Southern Way are available for interview as are the commissioned artists.

McClelland Gallery+Sculpture Park, 390 McClelland Drive, Langwarrin.

Media information: Magda Petkoff, Purple Media, 0409 436 473, info@purplemedia.com.au