

**DRAFT – Brief for 2013 photography commission**

(Ref: TRIM 13/815/2)

**Introduction**

Since 1988 Parliament House has been the meeting place of the Parliament of Australia and also provides the setting for ceremonial functions, hosting visiting dignitaries, and for a variety of political, community and social events. The building is recognised as a major international achievement for its placement of a major structure into a landscape setting, and in the integration of art and architecture. Numerous commissioned artworks embodying the skills of Australian artists and craftspeople, and utilising distinctly Australian materials are embedded into the fabric of the building.

Parliament House also provides the Canberra base for all Ministers of Executive Government and their staff. The building has around 1 million visitors a year, and is the workplace for more than 3000 people a day when Parliament sits.

More information about the building and its operations can be found at the Australian Parliament website – See:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Visit\\_Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/Visit_Parliament).

Statements outlining the heritage significance of Parliament House are set out at:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Visit\\_Parliament/About\\_the\\_Building/~media/06%20Visit%20Parliament/65%20About%20the%20Building/HeritageManagementFramework2011.ashx](http://www.aph.gov.au/Visit_Parliament/About_the_Building/~media/06%20Visit%20Parliament/65%20About%20the%20Building/HeritageManagementFramework2011.ashx)

**Objective**

This project aims to capture a documentary record of the building in its 25<sup>th</sup> year; taking a new, creative look at the building and its occupants, that will engage and excite Australian people about 'their' parliament. This will encompass:

- Creating a documentary record of the building and its occupants and visitors, as they are in 2013;
- Looking for new, visually striking insights and appreciation of the design and architecture, and how people experience and work in Parliament House;
- Providing a pool of images that can be used for promotional and educational purposes.

The resulting images may be used for a variety of purposes, including for exhibitions, publications, websites, and merchandise such as postcards.

**Scope – Possible approaches/options (TBC)**

(Assuming it would be a direct source approach, not an open tender).

- One or two photographers and possibly one video artist would be commissioned to provide a specified number of images (perhaps 20-30 images each) responding to a different theme or subject – e.g. focussing on architecture, landscape, people, infrastructure/support systems, or from an indigenous perspective.
- DPS would then choose from the images submitted to select a final group for acquisition.

## **Technical requirements/deliverables**

Once artists are selected, DPS's nominated project officer would work with the artists to negotiate final details of the technical requirements and deliverables.

Delivery of images may be staged, so that an initial batch of images is captured and delivered, and further negotiations with the artist conducted about direction for a second stage.

- Images will be delivered as high-resolution digital images (may need to add more detailed technical data as an attachment).
- A selection of images may also be printed as exhibition quality prints. Artist's would be given the opportunity to have input into the selection and printing process.
- Images may be black and white, or colour or both.
- Intellectual property in all images acquired by DPS will be transferred to the Commonwealth (use same clauses as for HMC portrait commissions). Moral rights will be retained by the artists (ie images will not be modified, altered, subject to derogatory treatment etc.)

DPS will provide access to the building, information and a designated project officer to work with selected artists.

## **Timeline/schedule**

Project to commence in March 2013.

## **Pricing structure/Budget**

Could be structured a few different ways – e.g.:

- Request an hourly fee for time on-site allowing up to 5 days maximum to capture images, plus a for a per image cost for images acquired by DPS; OR
- a lump sum price for whole task; OR
- Nominate a fixed commission fee (and ask them to tell us what they will provide for that price)

Budget also needs to factor in project management costs for someone to liaise with artists – could use existing art consultant.

## **Assessment criteria**

- Professional standing of artist (based on CV);
- Track record/evidence of similar projects undertaken successfully (ask for examples);
- Price

**POSSIBLE ARTISTS** (requires further investigation to refine a short-list):

Secretary's note – focus on artists who produce realist/documentary images (though stylistic OK):

- People in building;
- Mix of epic and personal;
- Suitable for adding some to the permanent collection
- In keeping with ethos of parliament House as home of Australian Democracy.

Trent Parke  
Murray Fredericks  
Sonia Payes  
Siri Hayes  
Anne Ferran

Anne Zahalka  
Greg Weight  
Jesse Marlow  
Darren Siwes