

Monday, 10 December 2012

To whom it may concern,

**Re: The Echuca Moama Bridge Arts Project**

I write in support of the *Bridge Arts Project* and commend the group's foresight and initiative for a project that has the ability to change the way Echuca Moama might be viewed by regional, national and international visitors in the future.

The *Bridge Arts Project* concept aims to utilise our new second bridge crossing as a blank canvas to tell the many and varied stories of our local history.

Chairperson Barry Donchi described the project's potential as 'a once in a lifetime opportunity' to change the entire landscape of tourism in our town and in the region.

And it's the project's ability to complement what we already have on offer here for tourists including our natural environment, the river and 60,000 years of indigenous history, that makes this an exciting project.

This project talks of tourists, school and tertiary students and academics wanting to visit Echuca Moama to learn about the history of our area.

There are many stories still untold about our local indigenous history and the project's steering committee believes the new bridge could be the perfect location to tell these stories to the world – using art as the message stick.

The *Bridge Arts Project* is currently seeking exposure of its plans and is considering its funding options from both sides of the border, through the Federal government and through philanthropic groups and individuals.

I fully encourage the steering committee in its endeavours and have offered my support in any way that I can.

I believe any group that has the long term interests of our community, in both a historical and artistic manner, at the heart and soul of its plans deserves to have a voice and I encourage you to support them in any way you can.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Weller MLA

Member for Rodney



for Regional Victoria