

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Glebe foreshore's giant figs to reflect sunset sky

Two giant Moreton Bay fig trees on the Glebe foreshore will be illuminated at sunset, when a new artwork powered by state-of-the-art lighting and wind turbine technology is switched on this month.

*Earth V Sky*, by artist Allan Giddy, uses the world's first colour-sensitive light control system to invert the colours of the sunset and project them onto the trees.

The newly developed technology takes a digital snapshot of the twilight sky and projects contrasting hues onto the leaves and branches using LED lights, producing a changing display as the night progresses.

The energy used to power the lights will be balanced by an elegant 18-metre wind turbine that feeds renewable electricity back into the grid.

The turbine, featuring three eye-catching curved blades made from carbon fibre and fibreglass, is 300 metres from the trees on the shoreline.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP said she hoped the new artwork would become a community asset in Glebe for years to come.

"Lighting up these two giant figs will show off the possibilities of new renewable lighting technology and set off one of Sydney's most beautiful harbourside settings," the Lord Mayor said.

"Across the city, we're showing art in our parks and open spaces – from temporary installations that invigorate a neighbourhood, to permanent works that become a significant part of the landscape."

*Earth V Sky* will operate each night at dusk, with the lights programmed to switch on at sunset and stay illuminated for about 90 minutes. The turbine will operate silently and have no impact on local wildlife.

The turbine is expected to generate approximately 3000 kilowatt hours (kWhr) each year to power the artwork, with at least another 5500kWhr returned to the grid.

Sydney-based artist Allan Giddy came up with the idea for the project in 2007 after noticing the two striking fig trees during a walk along the Glebe Foreshore.

"I saw these magnificent Moreton Bay fig trees sitting at the end of Glebe Point Road and thought how great it would be to enhance them for the community," Mr Giddy said.

"We developed this technology from the ground up, creating sensors to analyse the colour of the sky, detect the opposite colour on the colour wheel and reflect it back onto the leaves and branches."



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“The colours change subtly and slowly as our world gradually turns and the sun slowly sets.”

Allan Giddy, a pioneer of sustainable energy and time-based sculpture, is a lecturer at the University of New South Wales' College of Fine Arts.

His works have been shown at the world-renowned Tate Modern contemporary art gallery in London, as well as major venues throughout Canada, Finland, Greece, Vietnam and Bulgaria.

The technology to power the lights was developed by Mr Giddy in conjunction with engineers from UNSW. The wind turbine was designed by Urban Green Energy and constructed on the foreshore by Advanced Eco Solutions.

*Earth V Sky* is the third public art project developed by the City of Sydney with the local Glebe community since 2006.

Other works in the Glebe Point Road upgrade project include Nuha Saad's *Skippedy Skip* on the Glebe Public School fence, and Dr Nigel Helyer's *Wireless House* in Foley Park.

The Lord Mayor will officially open *Earth V Sky* for members of the community on Tuesday, 24 April, at 5pm.

For more information, contact City of Sydney Senior Media Officer Keeley Irvin, phone 02 9265 9106 or email [kirvin@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kirvin@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

For interviews with Lord Mayor Clover Moore, contact Matt Levinson 0427 044 768 or email [mlevinson@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mlevinson@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

For more information visit [cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/cityart](http://cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/cityart)

