



ACV/GARDS

Memorial Sculpture & Mural Funding Request

10 February 2026

*Yallourn Power Station Workers, 1958 - 1968
Museums Victoria*



**Asbestos Council
of Victoria**

Incorp. Silica

Asbestos and the Latrobe Valley

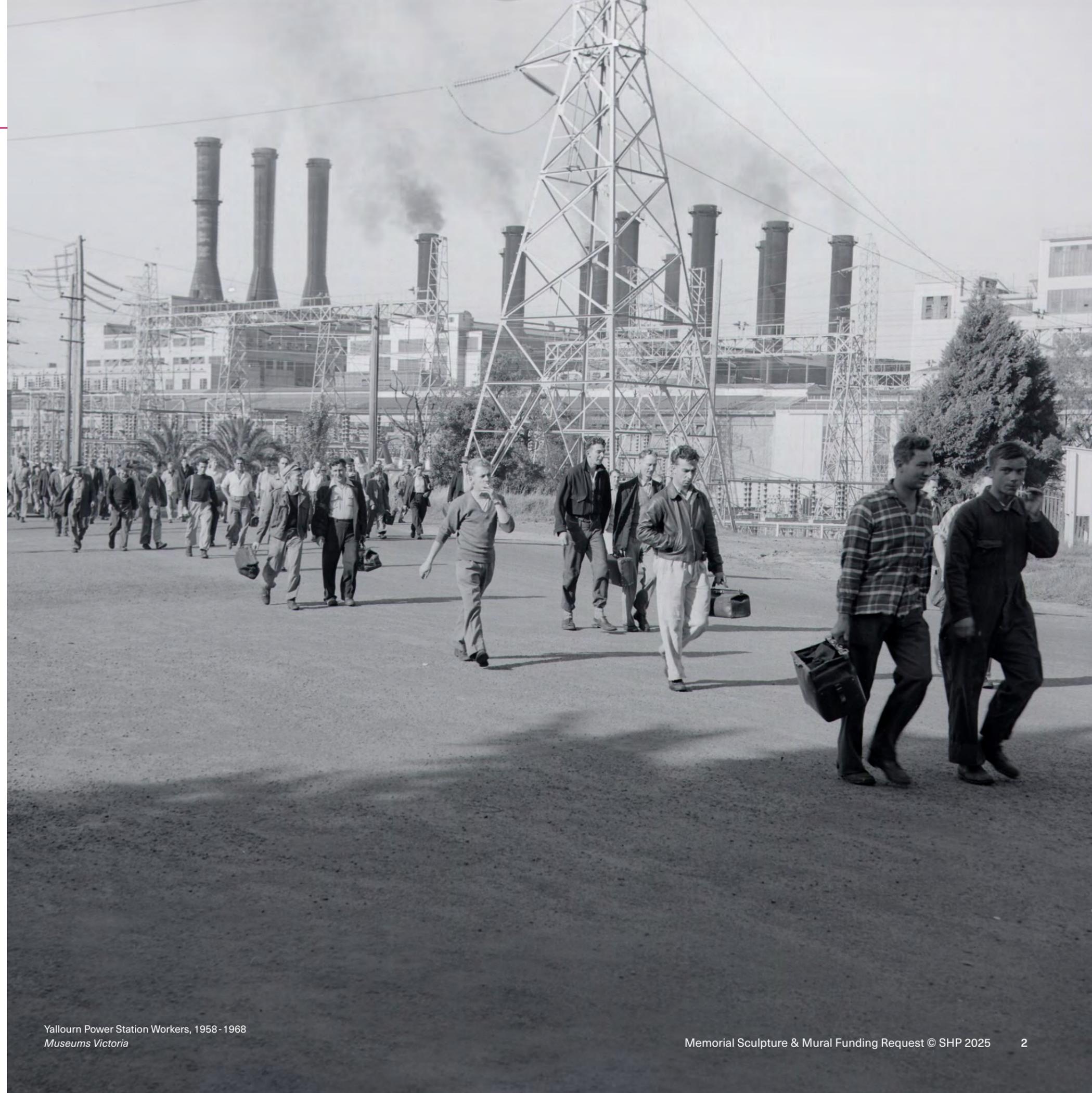
We used to climb over that [asbestos lagging], it was just like fluff and it used to blow up into the air and we used to throw it at each other and play in it and have a good old time. That was just normal.

Former power station employee

Thousands of people have died of asbestos-related illnesses in the Latrobe Valley since the power industry began. Although the adverse health effects of asbestos were noted as early as 1899 and the lethality of asbestos recognised by governments in Britain and the United States, the dangers of asbestos only became widely-known in Australia in the 1970s.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the SEC was informed of the dangers of exposure to asbestos dust in its power stations but the information was widely disregarded by the authorities. A former SEC employee at Yallourn power station noted that in the 1960s 'you could walk into "A" station and you couldn't see the other end of the boilers.'

Victoria banned the use of asbestos in 2003, but the use of asbestos in the power stations of the Latrobe Valley has contributed to the development of asbestos-related disease in thousands of people. Asbestos-related illnesses have affected not only workers' families but also the whole community.



Memorial sculpture

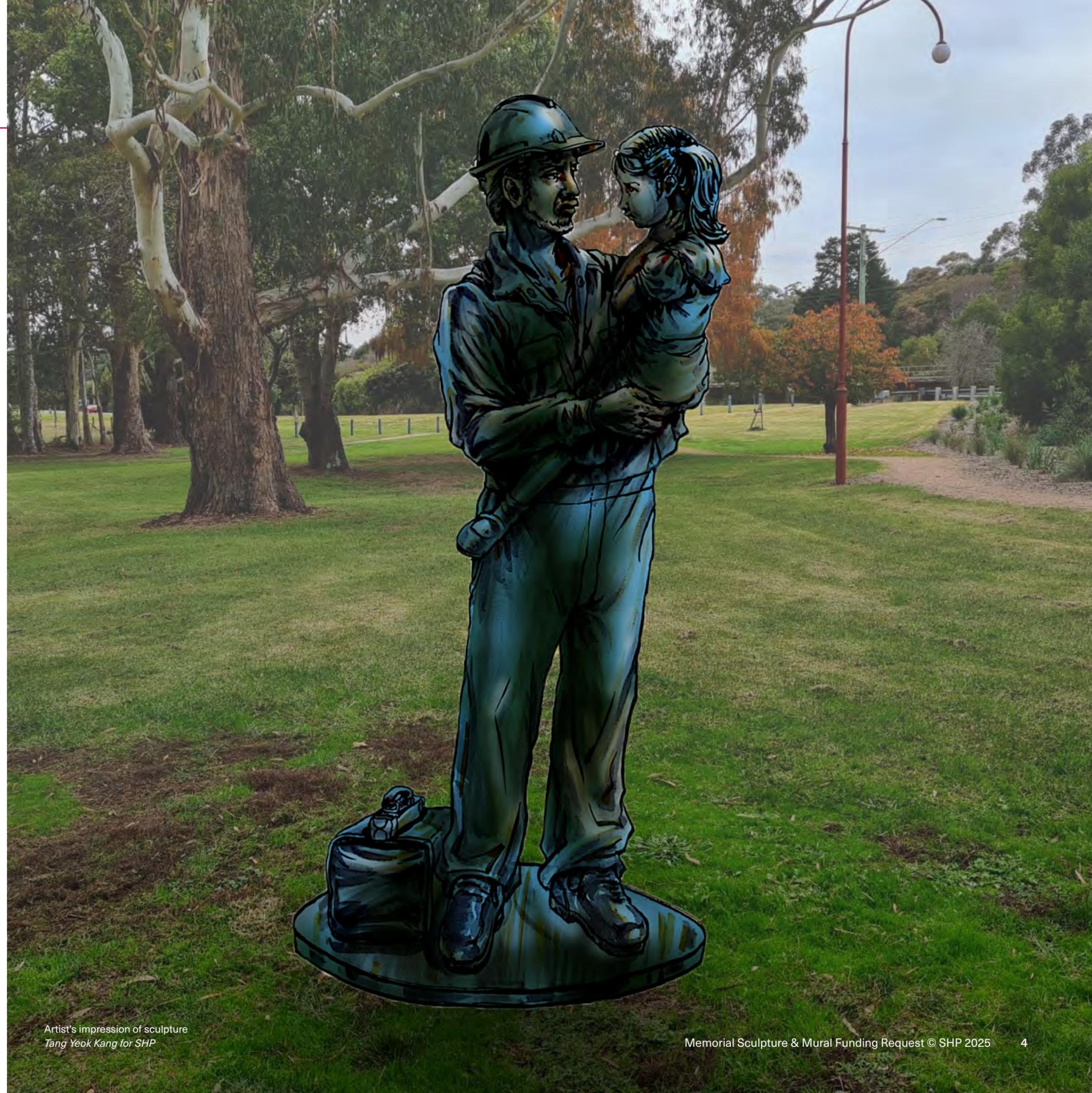
ACV/GARDS Memorial Sculpture

This sculpture is designed as a memorial to the people who lost their lives to asbestos-related diseases contracted at power stations in the Latrobe Valley. The sculpture depicts a power worker with his young daughter to recognise that asbestos-related diseases did not, and do not, just impact workers but their whole families too.

The sculpture uses a contemporary art approach to revitalise narratives of the power stations in a way that is both respectful and historically accurate. Design work has been driven by historical research into clothing and objects from the 1960s era, with styles carefully chosen by ACV/ GARDS to reflect the 1920s-80s to ensure the sculpture is relatable to all impacted families.

The man and child have a familiar, unimposing stance. They will be produced at 1:1.15 scale to evoke a sense of connection to and empathy with the lived and personal experiences of those impacted by asbestos-related diseases.

ACV/GARDS have wanted to commemorate the thousands of people who died across the Latrobe Valley through a memorial for over 25 years. Proposed to be located in the Moe Botanical Gardens, this sculpture will provide a dedicated and accessible place for community reflection and remembrance at long last.



Artist's impression of sculpture
Tang Yeok Kang for SHP

Project management

The project will be managed by SHP, which has extensive experience in design, build and installation of artworks, heritage interpretation installations, signage and exhibitions. SHP's clients include Placemaking NSW, Energy Brix, Parks Victoria, Baracon, Mecca, Barwon Water, Lendlease, Stockland and Frasers Property Group.

www.shp.net.au



About the sculptor

Lis Johnson has practised sculpture professionally since 1990. Formally trained in art history, theory, research and practice in the 1980s, she has exhibited in many group, solo and selective exhibitions. She has also created three-dimensional artwork for architects, designers, other artists, museums and zoos, and the display, theatre and film industries. This has enabled her to become proficient in a wide range of traditional and contemporary materials and techniques and learn to work efficiently to set budgets and deadlines.

For the past decade, Lis has focused on figurative [bronze portrait sculpture](#) ('statues'), and is pleased to be part of the movement to create more [statues of women](#). Her preferred scale is 110-120% life-sized. She enjoys teaching sculpture, and lecturing, giving talks and running workshops in the Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Education sectors. She has Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Fine Arts, Visual Arts and Teaching.

Lis has been awarded numerous significant [Public Art Commissions](#), firstly the Illawarra Coalmining Memorial (Wollongong, 1994), then the Vietnam War Memorial in Victoria. Other major works include: five monumental 150% [life-sized bronze statues](#) of athletes in action for the Avenue of Legends at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Rod Laver's sculpture at his Arena at Melbourne Park, George D Treloar with refugee child, in Sturt St Gardens Ballarat. Her work can also be seen in Canberra's Parliamentary Triangle: Prime Ministers [Sir John Gorton and McEwen](#), [Dames Enid Lyons and Dorothy Tangney](#), and ['Senator Ryan Addresses the Rally'](#) (Susan Ryan).



Lis Johnson

GARDS Budget

Item	Detail	Fee
Sculpture	Sculpture of father, daughter and bag. Anatomically correct, fully-clothed figures, with realistic (generic) portrait faces and expressions. 110% scale.	\$84,000.00
Casting	Silicon mould, cast in bronze with fine metal finish and patina	\$104,280.00
Installation	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freight to site from Melbourne Labour (3 installers x 5 days) Crane truck delivery Excavation Formwork Crushed rock, compacting Concreting and fixings Footing template Travel expenses 	\$40,000.00
	TOTAL	\$228,280.00
	GST	\$22,828.00
	TOTAL INCLUDING GST	\$251,108.00

Requested funds

The requested funds for the sculpture are \$228,280 (excluding GST).



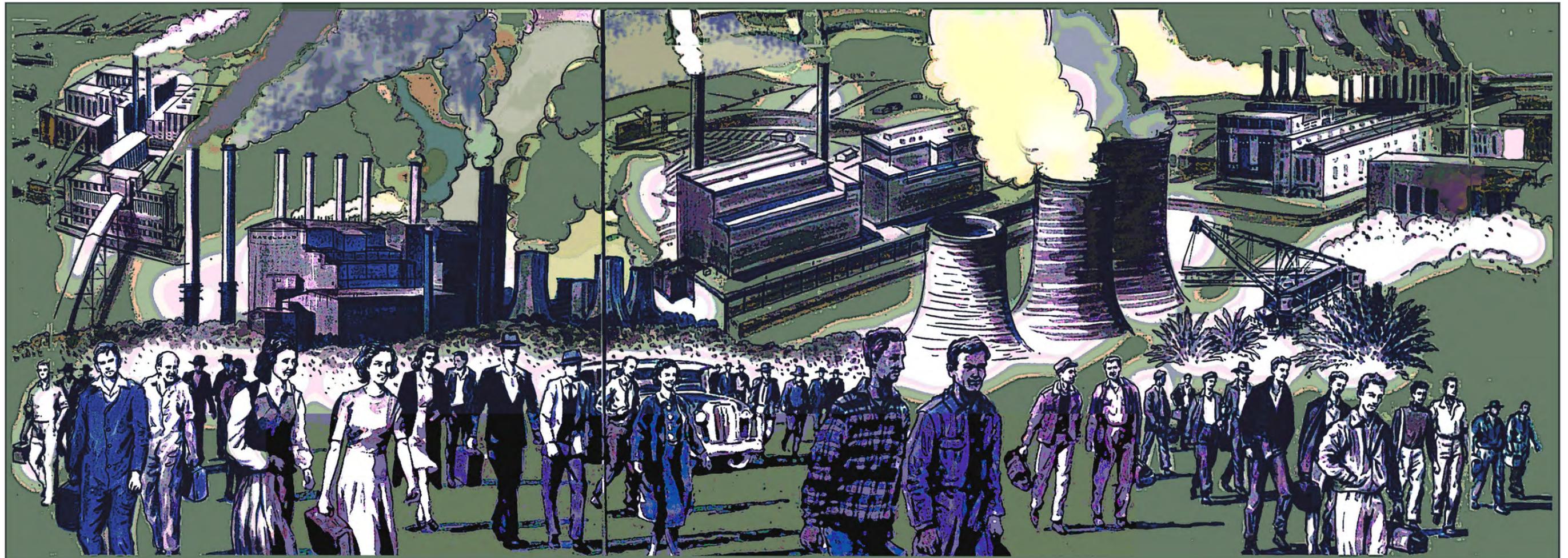
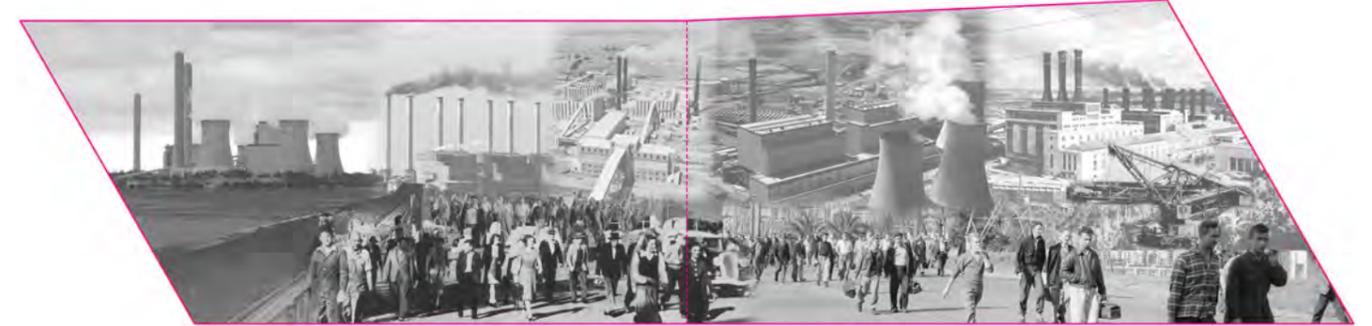
Mural

SHP

ACV/GARDS Mural

This mural is designed to complement the memorial sculpture and will be accompanied by an interpretive panel. The mural depicts workers leaving their workplaces, against a background of the five current and former power stations in the Latrobe Valley: Loy Yang A and Loy Yang B, Morwell, Yallourn and Hazelwood. The stories of these workers remain largely untold, but many became ill or died as a result of asbestos-related diseases.

Reference desian



ACV/GARDS Mural Mockup



GARDS Budget

Detail	Fee
Preparation of mural, including illustration of images for projection onto the surfaces	\$6,500
Painting of mural, including all equipment (scaffolding, paint etc)	\$36,350
Installation	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$47,850
GST	\$4,785
TOTAL INCLUDING GST	\$52,635.00

Memorial sculpture and mural mockup



