

Our Reflect RAP Artwork Story

‘YIRRAMBOI DAMINON-INON-TOMORROW’S PEACE’

The traditional language of the Wurundjeri People is Woi-Wurrung. In the Woi-Wurrung language the name Wurundjeri is in two parts: ‘Wurun’, meaning the manna gum tree, and ‘djeri’, the white grub that lives in the tree – the witchetty grub. The lands and waterways of the Wurundjeri People - the lands on which GS E&C’s Melbourne corporate office sit – is represented by flowering manna gum leaves extending towards the tiger, which represents the proud land and nation of Korea. The leaves are a symbol of welcome and ceremony and signify GS E&C’s acknowledgement and respect to the ancestors of the Wurundjeri People who have walked this land since the beginning of time – it is the connecting of two cultures.

Birrarung, the majestic river of mist and shadows weaves gently across country from its birthplace at the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, to the saltwater Bay of Naarm, the place known as Melbourne. This significant and sacred waterway was a vital food source and means of travel for thousands of years, and the meeting place for inter-clan trade and ceremonies. The river symbolises GS E&C’s connection to water and their valuable roles with building bridges for continued travel, dams, pipeline projects and treatment plants.

Campsites and homes are symbolised by arc-shaped mounds along the riverbank. They are the clans and tribes of the Traditional Custodians who have cared for and guarded these lands and sacred waterways in the place we know as Australia since time immemorial, and who share the knowledge of our history for the world to know.

Mountainous ranges frame Country either side of the Birrarung – the hilly segments. They are Corhanwarbul, the Dandenong Ranges in the east – the richly dense rainforests and fern gullies in which the river flows – and Geeboor; the Macedon Ranges in the north-west. Within these rolling hills is Wil-im-ee Mooring, Mt William – the sacred and spiritual gathering place in which clans from all along the east coast of the country would come to trade several highly treasured possum skin cloaks and other valuable items for one small prized green stone. The stone would be used for axe heads which were often as rare as having one per clan.

The mountains represent GS E&C Australia’s substantial involvement in infrastructure and with the North East Link Tunnel construction project symbolising roadways and connecting people in the modern world, to ancient travel and trade routes used for millennia amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples clans. The mountains are etched in cross hatching marks. These traditional lines signify GS E&C’s connection and role within the Suburban Rail Loop - East project and represent its journey tracks on Wurundjeri Country with a commitment to get the best outcomes. Various animal tracks within these mountains symbolise the community of travellers who will benefit from these projects, and their pathways to future destinations.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the oldest, continuous living culture on Earth. Our stories are not only in the land and waters, but are in the heavens and stars, the sun and the moon. They are from Sky Country. GS E&C has a commitment to sustainability, eco-friendly technology and green affordability symbolised by the transmission lines and turbine. An electrical storm strikes the power tower with lightning. The lightning represents electricity and the connecting of communities. The winds of Sky Country circulate in song from the wind turbine symbolising the cleansing winds of Smoking Ceremonies signifying GS E&C’s commitment to recognising the past and healing the future.



The brown bear symbolises the community minded Korean culture and their spirituality, and their embracing of and respect of First Nations cultures within Australia. It signifies connection and listening with their hearts, just as the brown bear listened in the cave.

Two carved message sticks lay on a bed of gum leaves. For thousands of years, important messages and information were relayed through neighbouring clans by etched markings into pieces of wood. The messages might convey information about upcoming ceremony or news of a death or cultural business. The sticks were usually handed to the senior leaders of the tribe, and often given to the fastest runners in the clan to deliver across country. The sticks would permit travellers to pass through others country, to safely deliver the message.

Bear markings within the message sticks symbolise GS E&C's journey tracks from Korea across the water to the meeting place of Naarm and signify their openness and willingness to learn. The other stick is marked by kangaroo journey tracks symbolising First Nations' people and their message to GS E&C to take care of country and the lands and waterways in which they operate.

The central Gathering Place sits along the Birrarung, GS E&C's meeting place in Naarm. In Aboriginal symbology, a person is represented by the 'U' or 'n' motif. From the bird's eye view, this is the shape a person makes whilst sitting on the ground with their knees crossed.

The GS E&C community are represented inside the circle symbolising their commitment to listening to and learning from First Nations people on the path to reconciliation. Connected circles beside them signify the shared journey of walking alongside one another to make things better for the future. Scalloped arcs on the outer circle signify the broader GS E&C community and their respects for the sovereign lands and waterways in which they operate, recognising it is unceded land.

This is tomorrow's peace – this is 'yirramboi daminon-inon'.



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