

Lighting the Sound

13–15 March | 20–22 March | 27–29 March 2026

Event
Information Kit

FORM acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians throughout Western Australia both past and present, whose enduring connection to this Country and ongoing contributions to our collective culture and communities we respect and honour. We appreciate and are deeply grateful for the privilege of working on these lands.

Cover Image Credit:
Testing of *Lighting the Sound*, Kari Kola, Albany WA, 2026. Photo by Astrid Volzke, courtesy of FORM.

Lighting the Sound

13–15 | 20–22 | 27–29 March 2026

Albany will be transformed into a breathtaking canvas of light over three weekends in March. *Lighting the Sound*, the largest light installation ever staged on Earth, will illuminate Albany's hills and coastline like never before.

Be there when the lights go on.

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WELCOME MESSAGE FROM

The Hon. Reece Whitby MLA Minister For Tourism: Great Southern

On behalf of the Western Australian Government, I look forward to welcoming visitors from far and wide to WA's extraordinary Great Southern region for the Australian-exclusive *Lighting the Sound* event.

Set to wash Albany's pristine natural coastline and landmarks in colour and light over nine nights, this spectacular event has been crafted by renowned Finnish light artist, Kari Kola.

It's an honour to be hosting Kari's first-ever Australian light installation here in Western Australia, particularly with *Lighting the Sound*, which is expected to be one of the largest temporary lighting installations ever created. The event will shine a global spotlight on Western Australia and draw thousands of visitors to the region to immerse themselves in nature and culture.

For Great Southern businesses and communities, the influx of visitors means a major economic boost, with accommodation booked out and a wave of patrons filling bars and restaurants. This will support local jobs and boost Albany's vibrancy during its important bicentenary year—the first ever commemorated in Western Australia.

I encourage all visitors to take the opportunity to stay longer and travel further afield. Explore the Great Southern's rugged coastlines, ancient forests and mountains, and learn about the rich history and culture of the region.

However you plan your trip for *Lighting the Sound*, we know you'll have a great stay in Western Australia.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reece Whitby'.

Reece Whitby MLA
Minister For Tourism: Great Southern

Program Overview

Event Dates

Fri 13 – Sun 15 March

Fri 20 – Sun 22 March

Fri 27 – Sun 29 March

Hours

6:00 – 9:00pm each night

Exclusive Program Highlights

Look out for these special features and activations that will enrich your *Lighting the Sound* experience:

Pop-up Market Stalls & Live Music

Local businesses will showcase unique crafts, artisanal goods and fresh produce at the Stirling Terrace Night Markets. There will also be live music and drinks at the Six Degrees Beer Garden.

Albany Heritage Park

Extended opening hours at National ANZAC Centre, Forts Store and Barracks Museum to explore the precinct in twilight and evening light.

Reflection Hub & DJ

Relax or enjoy music at ANZAC Peace Park.

Exclusive Program Highlights (continued)

Food, Drinks, Art & Entertainment at ANZAC Peace Park

- Food Truck Alley is offering a variety of food options to cater for all tastes.
- Quench your thirst at The Dam pop-up beer garden.
- Reflection Hub & DJ: Relax or enjoy music on the foreshore.
- Experience captivating Aboriginal dance performances that bring ancient stories and traditions to life.
- Mamang Koort: Heart of the Whale
Mamang Koort, the Menang Noongar name for King George Sound, is a living, spiritual heart for the Menang Noongar people. This evolving artwork invites you to step into this heart, both physically and metaphorically. Over three weekends, it will transform in colour, form and feeling. Inspired by the red, black and yellow tones of the Menang Bloodroot, a plant of deep cultural and historical significance, used for medicine, food and dyeing. The final weekend will be a riot of colour, featuring hundreds of specially grown sunflower plants and other vibrant yellow botanicals.

Created by Lara Rose Bos with local artists, craft groups, and in consultation with Menang Elders and experts, the installation features a traditional Koornt (shelter) built by Menang Custodian Larry Blight.

Exclusive Program Highlights (continued)

Guided Walking Tours

Explore Albany's history and culture while watching the lights come to life with a guided walking tour with Albany Tours. From sunset through to event close, experience the spectacular Princess Royal Harbour and King George Sound as the lights begin to light up Albany like never before. Or indulge your senses with a walking and wine tasting tour at Alkoomi Wines.

Scenic Boat Tours

Experience *Lighting the Sound* from the water on a King George Sound Safari as the lights illuminate the Albany landscape. As the sun descends over the ocean, enjoy a two-hour Lighting the Sound Sundowner Cruise around the harbour.



Getting Around

Parking and Shuttle Buses

To help manage the large crowds expected for *Lighting the Sound*, visitors are encouraged to take advantage of a free shuttle bus service operating on event nights across the three weekends. The buses will connect several park and ride locations and accommodation providers with the Albany Entertainment Centre, which is a short walk from the activation zones.

Recommended parking locations* are listed below, with relevant shuttle buses available during the event, starting from 5.30pm. Return services will also be operating throughout the evening.

- [Albany Entertainment Centre pick-up/drop-off](#)
- [Emu Point \(Mermaid Ave/Jackson St\)](#)
Note: This shuttle pick-up location is 500m away from Albany boat ramp carpark
- [Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre](#)
- [Albany Highway](#)

Designated ACROD parking can be found on Albany Town Jetty.

Plan Your Visit

Traffic congestion is likely and town centre parking is limited. We recommend either planning to arrive on foot or via shuttle services.

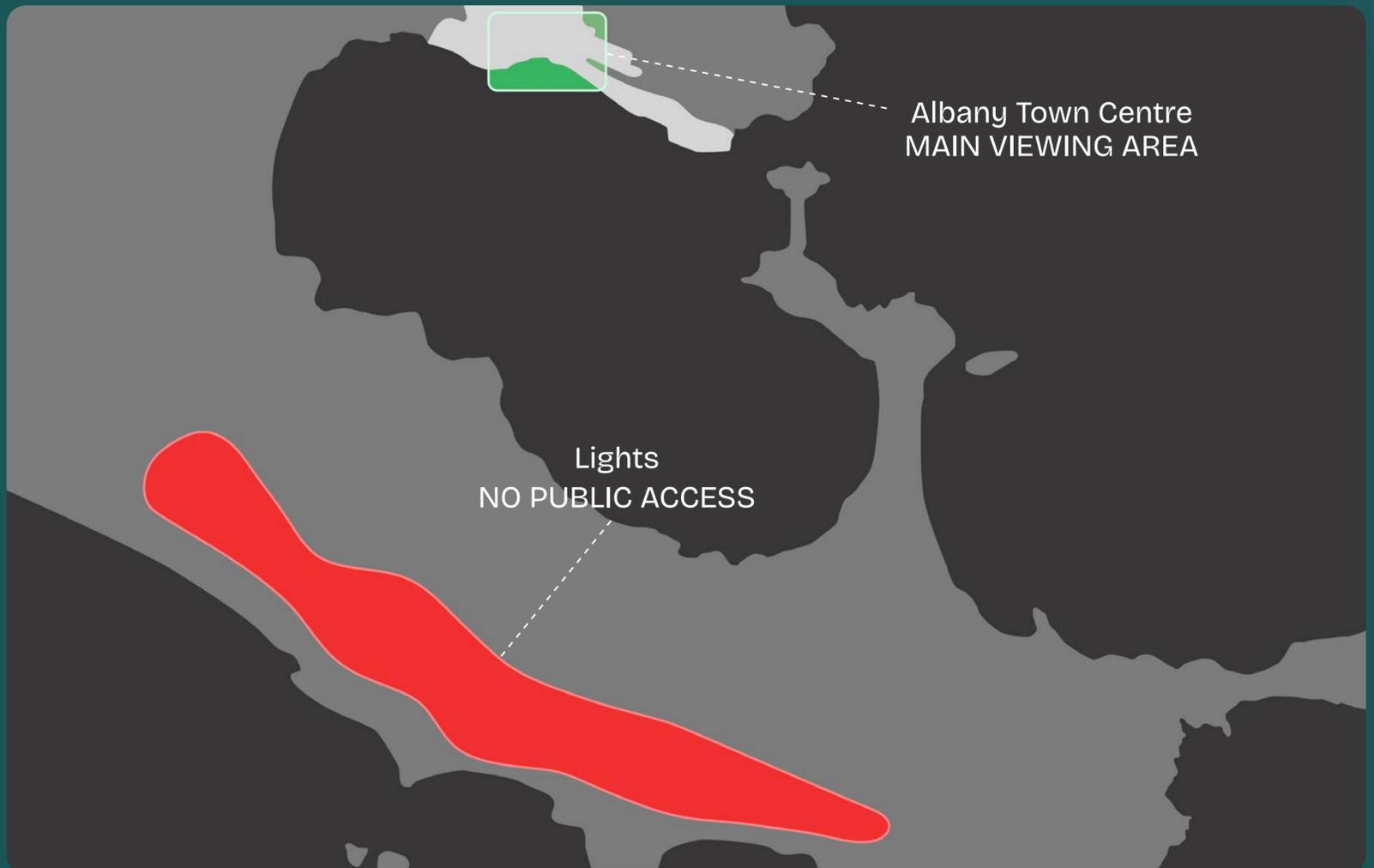
For real time tracking, download the [Transperth app](#)

For journey planning, visit [Transregional Journey Planner](#)

Map & Viewing Zones

Viewing Locations

The best places for the public to see and enjoy *Lighting the Sound* are located on the 'town side' of the harbour.



Albany Town Centre:
Main Viewing Area



Lights:
No Public Access



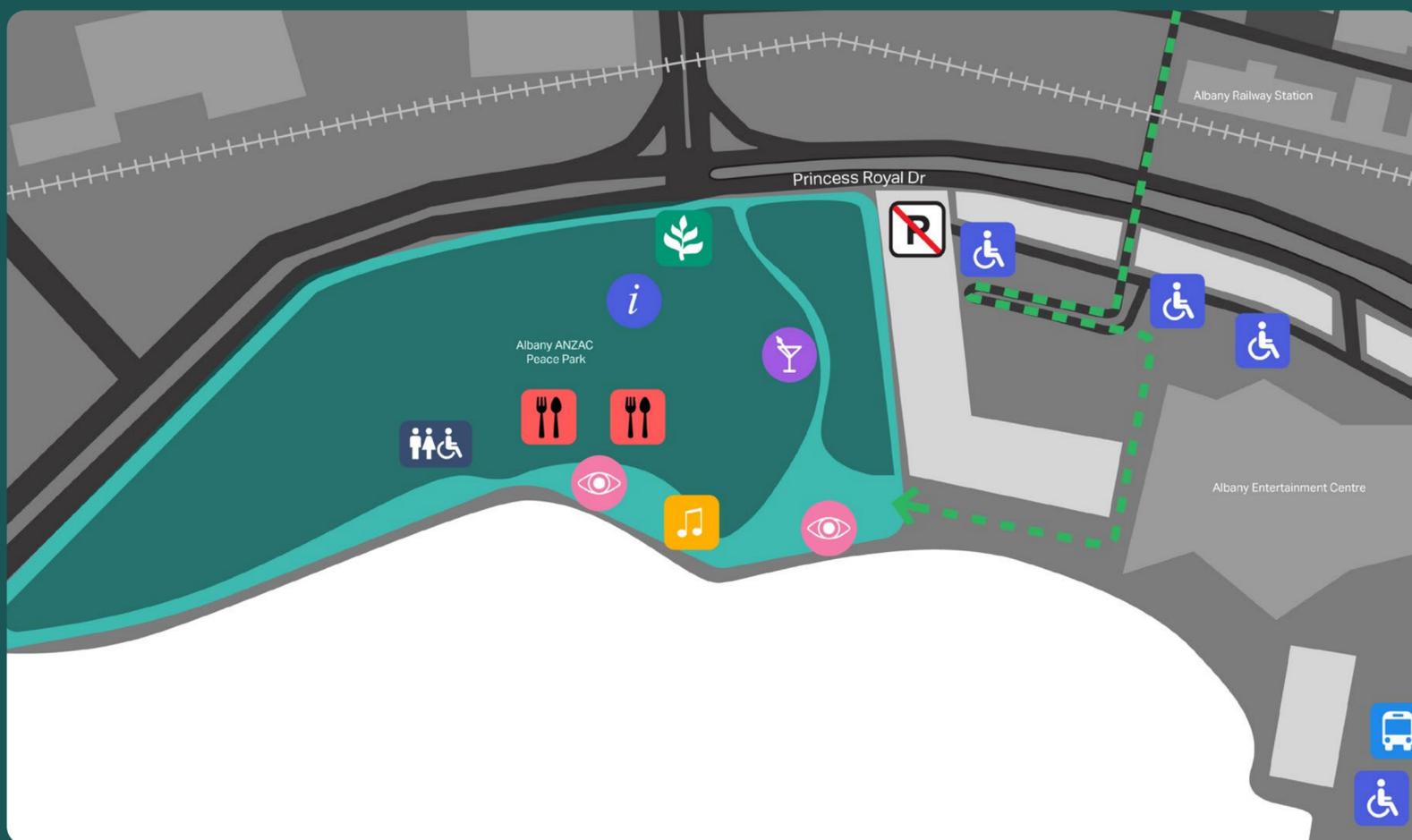
Map & Viewing Zones

Main Viewing Zones

The light installation can be enjoyed from two key locations connected by a pedestrian bridge for safe access.

Zone 1: ANZAC Peace Park

Family-oriented area with pop-up food and beverage options, kids entertainment, and front row panoramic views of the installation.

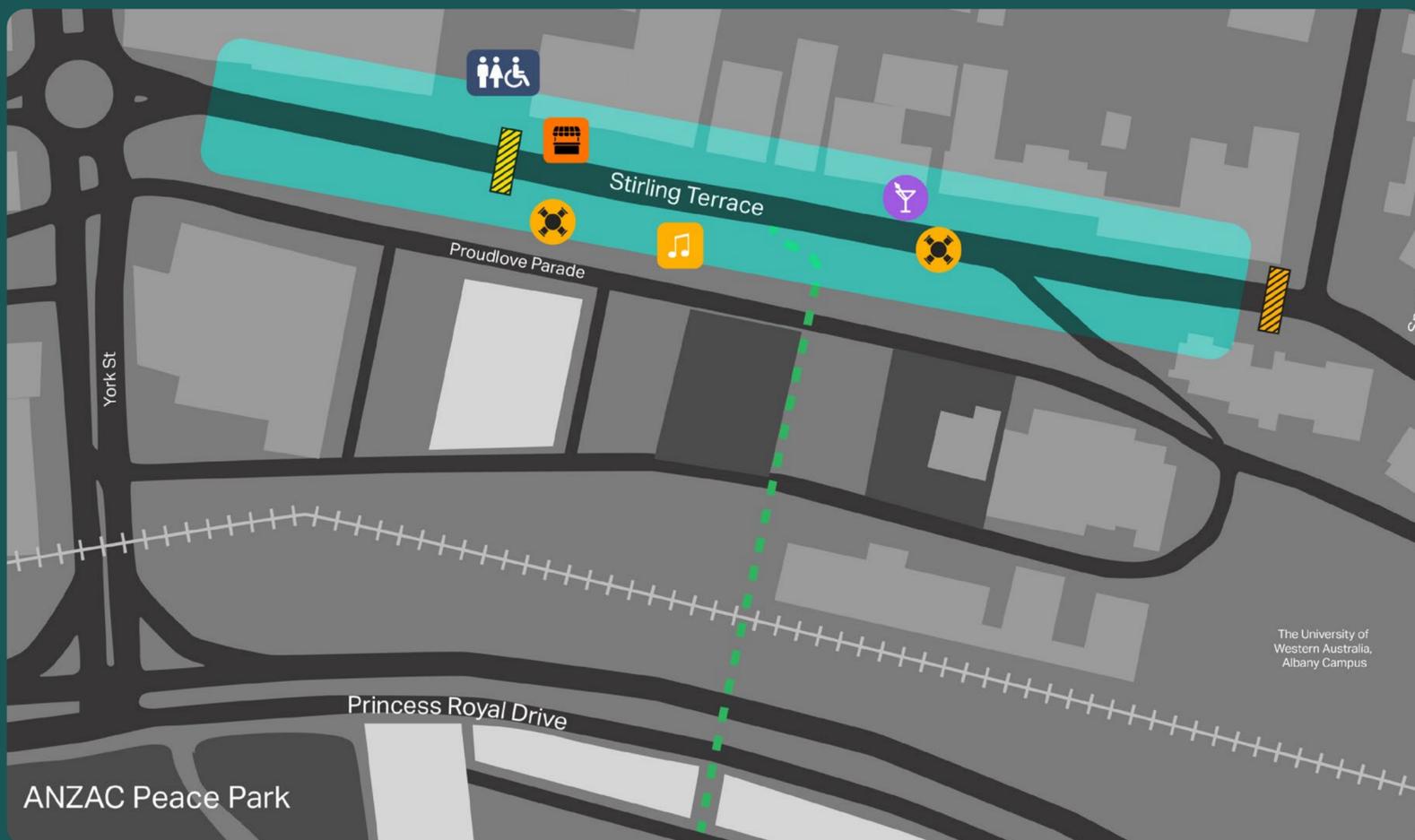


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|---|----------------------|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------|
|  | Pedestrian bridge |  | Floral installation |  | Entertainment |
|  | WC |  | Food stalls |  | Bus drop-off/pick-up |
|  | ACROD Parking |  | Bar licensed area |  | No parking |
|  | Customer service hub |  | Accessible viewing area | | |

Map & Viewing Zones

Zone 2: Town Centre

Stirling Terrace will be closed between York and Spencer Streets from 5:00pm, extended al fresco trading, night markets and street party vibes between 6:00 – 9:00pm each evening.



■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Pedestrian bridge

▨▨▨▨▨ Road closure

♿ WC



Tables and chairs



Market stalls



Bar licensed area



Live Music

Important Info

Parking

Arrive by 5:00pm to enjoy the golden glow of sunset over Princess Royal Harbour and King George Sound.

Road Closures

Location:

Between 70 Stirling Terrace (Six Degrees) and 106 Stirling Terrace (Albany Markets carpark)

Times:

5:00 – 10:00pm each event evening
(Friday, Saturday, Sunday)

Weather

Historically, March in the Albany area is characterised by windy weather (gusts up to 28km/h) rather than heavy rain. Please dress warmly.

Accessibility Information

We are committed to providing an inclusive experience for all. Learn more in our Accessibility Information documents and contact us if you require additional support.

[Lighting the Sound - Accessibility Document](#)

[Lighting the Sound - Audio Description](#)

Report an Issue

During *Lighting the Sound*, report an issue by either phoning the FORM team on [08 9385 2200](tel:0893852200) or by email at mail@form.net.au.

Always contact the Police on [000](tel:000) for life threatening emergencies. For other criminal activity, contact the Police on [131 444](tel:131444).

For traffic related matters such as parking or congestion, please contact City of Albany Rangers on [\(08\) 6820 3999](tel:0868203999).

Where to Eat

Whether you're after a casual bite or a full dining experience, these local favourites have something special planned for the occasion.

- **Garrison Restaurant & Bar**

Perched atop Mt Clarence, here you can enjoy magnificent views across King George Sound, paired with a custom menu crafted exclusively for show nights. Or opt for a picnic on the lawn while basking in the lights.

- **Rustlers Steakhouse and Grill**

Savour a menu featuring local produce, along with drink and food specials designed for show nights.

- **Gourmandise and Co.**

A special event menu from this European delicatessen, café and woodfire bakery will complement your evening plans.

- **Kate's Place**

Expect a simple, fresh menu from this cosy café that also has great harbour views.

- **Dylan's Restaurant & Cafe**

Get cosy in a booth seat as Dylan's Restaurant & Café serves up a special menu for show nights. This is relaxed dining in the historical Stirling Terrace precinct, with views across Princess Royal Harbour.

- **Premier Hotel**

Head to the Premier Hotel for a relaxed pub vibe and a special event menu that's perfect for a pre-show meal or post-show wind-down.

About the Artist - Kari Kola



Kari Kola is renowned for his lighting treatments of natural and human-made phenomena, notably the Connemara Mountains (Ireland), and Stonehenge (UK). Lighting the Sound is the first opportunity to see his work in Australia.

Kari visited Albany in 2024, developing "Roots of the Sky" as his concept. This is inspired by the Menang (or Bloodroot) plant, for which the region's First Nations peoples are named, and it gestures towards elements of reconciliation and intergenerational transfer of knowledge through broad interpretations of story.

"Light is a really powerful tool and I believe that we can draw focus to any site, city, or value using light art. I plan to work on an unseen scale with unique sites and push the limits of light art into new dimensions. This will create a new level of impact in raising awareness on many topics."

- Kari Kola

While You're Here

Soar above the stunning landscapes of Albany on a [scenic helicopter tour](#). Witness the beauty of [Albany Heritage Park](#), marvel at the [Granite Skywalk](#), and explore the history of the [Whaling Station](#). Take in the dramatic views of [The Gap and Natural Bridge in Torndirrup National Park](#) for an unforgettable aerial adventure.



As part of Balgang Albany, FORM is proud to present three events within the Albany 2026 event program: *Lighting the Sound* in March, followed by *Albany Is* in June, and concluding with *Carrying the Fire* in November.

Albany Is



Launches June 2026

What does Albany sound like?

Discover the answer with *Albany Is*, an immersive soundscape that captures the voices, songs and sounds of this enchanting place. The voices of the Menang people, the Traditional Owners, are woven into the narrative, their songs and creation stories intertwining with Albany's rich multicultural heritage. From sea shanties to birdcalls, marching boots to ocean waves, *Albany Is* evokes a vibrant soundtrack for this diverse region.



Project Partner



Major Supporter



Creative Producers

BARKING WOLF



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Carrying the Fire

14 November 2026

Albany will glow with light and unity during *Carrying the Fire*, a participatory artwork that invites thousands to walk together, each carrying a lamp.

This stunning procession will trace the hills and coastline, creating a river of light that celebrates connection and community.

It's a moment to reflect, unite and leave a fleeting, yet unforgettable mark on the land.



Project Partner



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Creative Producer



FORM.
building a state of creativity

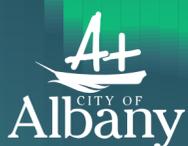
Lighting the Sound is initiated and produced by
FORM Building a State of Creativity.

Lotterywest is a Major Supporter of the City of Albany's,
Albany 2026 Program.

Lighting the Sound is proudly supported by the Western
Australian Government through
Tourism Western Australia.



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Imaging Partner



Broadcast Partner

