

Purpose

Council is committed to a clear and robust process to actively respond to proposals for a diverse range of memorials and monuments, to ensure that it continues to honour people, history and ideas. This Policy provides the framework for memorials and monuments to ensure that appropriate commemoration is encouraged, the integrity of Council's parks, gardens, reserves and other public spaces is upheld, and fair and balanced decisions are made.

While most memorials and monuments are placed in Council's park lands, this Policy applies to memorials and monuments in all parts of Council controlled land and assets in the region.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- ensure memorials reflect fairly Council's and the wider public's desires and expectations to commemorate people and places of significance;
- ensure that approved memorials enhance the cultural value and the public realm of Council's public spaces;
- ensure temporary roadside memorials in memory of persons deceased through road accidents do not cause driver distraction or detract from the amenity of the area;
- ensure that Council deals effectively with public enquiries and pursues or rejects requests to create, accept and/or commission a memorial; and
- ensure memorials are of a type and quality suitable for the public realm and are maintained and well managed.

Scope

This Policy incorporates memorials, plaques, artworks and monuments depicting an event, person or place of significance to the local community and applies to all Council controlled land and assets in the region. This Policy also applies to roadside memorials to persons deceased through road accidents.

Policy Statement

- 1.1 Council acknowledges that memorials are integral to the social fabric, civic life and physical environment of the region.
- 1.2 Council recognises that a memorial can take many forms. It can be temporary or permanent and exists as an important, desirable and valuable community asset.
- 1.3 Council will ensure a clear, open and equitable process through a comprehensive assessment of applications for the creation, selection and placement of memorials.
- 1.4 All requests for memorials must be made in writing to Council for approval consideration with the exception of temporary roadside memorials.
- 1.5 All memorials placed or commissioned on public land within land controlled by Council are deemed to be under the control of the Council and managed in accordance with Council standards.
- 1.6 Council shall manage and maintain a memorial for a period of 15 years at which time determination of the future of the memorial will be at Council's sole discretion, including its relocation, removal, and/or decommissioning as required.

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- 1.7 Council supports memorials that meet the subject, location, artistic design merit and cost criteria as outlined in this Policy.

Subject

- 1.8 The subject of a memorial should be able to demonstrate a high level of its significance, such as:
- a) the person or group has made an outstanding contribution to the cultural, political, economic or social development of the Whitsunday region;
 - b) it is an important and unique town or civic anniversary; or
 - c) it is a historical or culturally significant site or event.
- 1.9 Council shall not approve memorials to commemorate a person, event or place that is already memorialised within the region, except for memorials of significant national events (e.g. war memorials).
- 1.10 Memorials must conform to general community standards of taste and must not overtly offend, discriminate, denigrate or vilify. Religious memorials shall not be placed in Council's parks, gardens and reserves, except in exceptional circumstances.
- 1.11 Memorials for animals will not be approved by Council.
- 1.12 Only temporary roadside memorials in memory of persons deceased through road accidents are permitted without Council approval.

Location

- 1.13 The final decision in relation to the location of memorials and monuments on Council controlled land or assets shall be made by Council.
- 1.14 Council shall only approve minor memorials to be placed within areas dedicated for minor memorials. Minor memorials must be in remembrance of persons or groups.
- 1.15 When determining the final location of a memorial or monument, Council shall place high regard on the Council Management Strategy for Parks, Gardens and Reserves, and other strategies where appropriate.
- 1.16 Council shall only approved memorials where the proposed location will not compromise the aesthetic integrity or interfere with the unique or cultural character of the area.
- 1.17 A written application for a memorial must demonstrate the need for the memorial to be placed in the proposed location e.g. there should be some justification for the memorial being in the location requested.
- 1.18 Where appropriate, preference will be given to co-location of new memorials within a site of common interest.
- 1.19 Council shall not approve memorials where the location for the memorial will adversely affect the existing use for that location.
- 1.20 Council may remove temporary roadside memorials in memory of persons deceased through road accidents if the memorial causes driver distraction or detracts from the amenity of the area.
- 1.21 Temporary roadside memorials installed on a State Controlled Roads must comply with the guidelines set out by the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Artistic/Design Merit

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- 1.22 Memorials must exhibit either artistic or design merit. The RADF committee may provide advice to the Chief Executive Officer on design merit, having assessed the artistic merit against the following criteria:
- a) innovation, creativity, vision, originality, power to communicate;
 - b) undertaken by practicing professional artists;
 - c) the proposed design will complement the region's history of monumental art; and
 - d) low maintenance construction.

Cost /Funding

- 1.23 All costs associated with establishing a memorial are to be met in full by the donor. Costs include, but are not limited to:
- a) Applicable application fee;
 - b) community and stakeholder consultation;
 - c) artist, project manager and/or engineering fees;
 - d) all costs associated with Development Approval as required;
 - e) all costs associated with construction and installation;
 - f) all costs associated with site preparing and/or remediation;
 - g) estimated future maintenance and management costs – including ongoing monitoring, cleaning, refreshing protective coating and minor damage repair, for a minimum of 15 years; and
 - h) costs of at least \$500 and up to the value of Council's insurance excess incurred as a result of any damage sustained to the memorial within the first 15 years.
- 1.24 Payment for all costs associated with the establishment of approved memorials must be paid in advance.

Applicable Legislation

In adopting this Policy, it is recognised that there are specific legislative requirements to be met in addition to other corporate goals.

Related legislation to be considered in conjunction with this Policy includes the:

- Local Government Act 2009;
- Development Act and Regulations;
- Disability Discrimination Act 1991;
- Australian Standards;
- Whitsunday Regional Council's Local Laws

Definitions

Council is a reference to the Whitsunday Regional Council.

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Donor shall mean any person or group applying to commemorate a person or event or place that conveys a positive message for the region.

Memorial/s shall mean an object designed to preserve the memory of a person, event or place and any reference to a memorial can be taken as a reference to a monument. Memorials can either be Specifically designed objects or structures that are explicitly memorial inform i.e.: works of art or the restoration of an existing feature can be undertaken to commemorate a person, event or place in a way that contributes to enhancing the urban and cultural fabric of the City, rather than erecting new memorials that require maintenance and management. Memorials can include seats, picnic settings, BBQs, or capital works projects with an appropriate adjacent or mounted plaque (to be no bigger than 100mm x 100mm x 100mm). For the purposes of this document, a reference to a memorial shall be taken to also be a reference to a monument.

Minor Memorial/s shall mean a memorial no bigger than 100mm x 100mm Monument/s shall mean an enduring physical object created in memory of a person, event, or place.

Plaque shall mean a bronze bench plaque mounted flush, with a text message displayed that does not exceed the accepted plaque size for the bench of 100mm x 100mm x 100mm.

Temporary Roadside Memorials shall mean roadside memorials in memory of persons deceased through road accidents.

Related Documents

N/A

Human Rights Compatibility Statement

This Policy has been assessed as compatible with the Human Rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

COUNCIL POLICY			
Date Adopted by Council		Council Resolution	
Effective Date		Next Review Date	
Responsible Officer(s)		Revokes	
Public Consultation: Yes / No			