

Document Control	
Policy Title	Memorials and Monuments
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Responsible Directorate	Corporate and Community Services
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1. Purpose

Public space is a significant part of the region's social and cultural heritage and provides a valued recreational, environmental and aesthetic contribution for people who live, work, and play in the region.

The purpose of this document is to provide a policy framework for the management of existing plaques and memorials, including their removal where necessary, and the assessment and installation of new plaques and memorials within public space in the Gympie region.

2. Scope

The policy covers memorials and monuments on Council owned or managed land, including streets, environmentally significant reserves, road reserves or public parks.

All new memorials and monuments will be required to conform to this policy, with the exception of the following:

- Road and bridge naming and directional signage, display boards, banners, or Council approved public artworks;
- War memorials, which require approval by other authorities; and
- Naming of places or facilities, which require approval by other authorities.
- Temporary roadside memorials.

The policy is applicable to the following proposals which require approval from Council;

- Objects, sculptures or structures commissioned by a designer and/ or artist in their development for the purpose of appearing memorial in their placement;
- Restoration and/ or amendment to an existing memorial undertaken to commemorate a person, group, organisation, event or place;
- Commemorative trees planted in honour or memory of a person, group, organisation, event or place;
- Reserve furniture within public space such as reserve benches, picnic tables and any other infrastructure within public space such as picnic shelters, barbeques, playgrounds;
- Landscape reclamation and/ or development for the purpose of commemorating a person, ground, organisation, event or place.

Whilst there are existing plaques and memorials within the Gympie region that predate this policy, an existing plaque, memorials or monument should not be taken as a precedent for future approvals.

Memorials, monuments and plaques outside the scope of Gympie Regional Council's ordinary works program are subject to the same approvals.

Where an approval is provided for a memorial or monument outside council's scope of works, the proponent is responsible for all costs, including installation and ongoing maintenance, based on an agreed schedule of works developed at the time of approval.

3. Policy Statement

Council recognises that plaques, memorials and monuments are important in celebrating significant historical events and acknowledging persons or organisations closely associated with the leadership, cultural and social development of the region.

Policy objectives

Council is committed to achieving the following outcomes:

- Provide an opportunity to recognise and celebrate significant historical events and persons or organisations closely associated with the leadership, cultural and social development of the region;
- Protect the intended purpose, environmental values and aesthetic appearance of Council public space;
- Provide a clear and equitable framework to manage requests for plaques and memorials to be located within Council public space;
- Ensure that any requests are supported by planning and regulatory requirements;
- Ensure the subject or theme of the proposed memorial reflects the values of the communities of interest; and

- Ensure risks are adequately considered in relation to plaques and memorials on Council owned or managed land.

Plaques and memorials will only be considered for the commemoration of:

- An individual strongly linked to the Gympie region who has made a substantial contribution to the leadership, cultural and social aspects of the region's development or shared community history. The contribution of the individual must have been exceptional and extend beyond what might reasonably be expected through paid employment or voluntary contribution to the community.
- A Gympie region group or association who has made a substantial and outstanding contribution to the Gympie region community.
- A Significant historical or cultural event which has a profound resonance with the broader Gympie region community or is of national or state significance.

Council may at its discretion approve plaques, memorials or monuments.

Plaques, memorials and monuments commemorating individuals will generally not be considered until the person/s has been deceased for at least one year, in order to allow for appropriate development of historical perspective

Plaques, memorials and monuments will only be considered where they are consistent with Council's strategic and urban design vision for the proposed location. The proposal must be consistent with relevant Council strategies, master plans and the land's public purpose, and must not result in a change of use of the land. The siting or appearance of a plaque, memorial or monument must not negatively impact the aesthetic or environmental value of public space, nor on the use of the space by the community.

4. Deaccession and disposal

Monuments and memorials will be recorded in council's asset register and subject to the same disposal and deaccession standards as other assets in accordance with Council's Asset Management Framework. Where plaques are attached to other objects disposal or deaccession is subject to the lifespan of the object it sits on.

Council reserves the right to remove monuments or memorials at any time after consulting with the people involved or where Council deems it is not maintained to an acceptable level. All reasonable efforts will be made to return plaques to representatives of the person, group or association.

5. Related Legislation

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Queensland Land Act 1994*
- *Native Title Act 1993*
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
- *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*
- *Copyright Act*

6. Related Documents

- Local Law Number 1 – Administration
- GRC Planning Scheme
- Reconciliation Action Plan (to be commenced)
- Qld Heritage Register <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/register>
- Department of Transport and Main Roads Roadside Memorials
<https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Safety/Road-safety/Roadside-memorails.aspx>
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, Qld State Government
<https://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/cscp/safetyPublic/default.htm>
- The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter of Places of Cultural Significance 1999
<http://australia.icomos.org/publications/burra-charter-practice-notes/burra-charter-archival-documents/#BC1999>
- ISDP204 Road & Street Naming Guidelines

7. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- **Plaque**
Flat tablet of metal, stone or other durable material which may include text and/ or images that commemorate a person, group, association, event or historical information relevant to a particular location. The tablet may be fixed to a building, hard ground surface, or an object such as a seat or bench located within public space.

- **Memorial**

A two or three-dimensional object such as a statue, sculpture or plaque that is designed to preserve the memory of a person, group, association, physical object (such as a bridge), event or occasion. A memorial may be a 'living thing', such as a tree or garden.

- **Monument**

A monument is structure that serves as a type of memorial to commemorate a notable person, group, association, place or event.

- **Region**

Any area as defined within the Gympie region, irrespective of planning zone and/ or private ownership.

- **Public Space**

All Council owned or managed land that is open or accessible to people. This includes:

- Council owned public open space including bushland, beaches, foreshores, reserves and sports fields
- Land managed by Council but owned by another body
- The exterior or interior of Council buildings within public space
- Reserve furniture within public space (such as reserve benches, picnic tables etc.)
- Any other infrastructure within public space (such as picnic shelters, barbeques, playgrounds etc.)
- Activity centre locations including footpaths, median strips, public squares, malls and laneways
- Road Reserves