

Subject **MEMORIAL SEATS AND ROADSIDE MEMORIALS**

Description: This document describes Council's Policy for dealing with applications from the public for memorial seats and roadside memorials

Objective: To ensure applications from the public for memorial seats and roadside memorials are dealt with sympathetically and consistently.

PART 1 - BACKGROUND

1. Council wishes to commemorate the contributions of members of the Community to the social, cultural and economic life of the Uralla Shire Council area.
2. The placement of memorials such as seats, plinths and rocks with plaques are means by which some families or organisations commemorate the passing of the life of a family member or colleague. The placement is often sought to be in a location of significance to that person, family or organisation. This location sought may sometimes be public open space.
3. Another form of memorial, which may take a number of forms but are generally a cross or rock with the name of the deceased and date of the accident or death, is the roadside memorial. These memorials, if safely located, can be a timely reminder to other road users of the need to drive safely at all times.
4. Public open space, for the purpose of this policy, is defined as land that is available for recreation or sport or reserved for the purpose of conservation or aesthetic appeal that is under the care, control and management of the Uralla Shire Council. Open space includes reserves, parks, trails, sportsgrounds, civic areas, play spaces and streetscapes.

PART 2 - POLICY

1. Applications must be in writing setting out details of the memorial seat, plinth, rock or tree and the style and wording of the plaque to be so attached. The application must contain the name of the person to be commemorated, a summary of reasons for commemorating the individual, the preferred location of the memorial and any other pertinent information to guide Council in making a determination.
 2. Council will consider each application on its merits of a permanent memorial in a reserve or public open space under the care, control and management of the Uralla Shire Council, depending upon the style of memorial; seat, plinth, rock or tree.
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3. Council will make a determination in approving or rejecting the application taking into consideration the following criteria; existing or proposed development of the area including vegetation and landscaping, the public use of the area and the number of existing memorials with plaques in the area.
4. It is preferred where the memorial is to be a seat or bench that the style is that of the seats and benches provided by Council in the Main Street of Uralla.
5. The proponents will bear the cost of the seat, bench, plinth, rock or tree together with the cost of manufacture and installation of the memorial plaque.
6. Council will bear the cost of maintenance of the memorial and plaque, on the understanding that memorial seating and trees have a finite life. Whilst all reasonable care will be taken in extending the life of the seating, Council can not guarantee that the seating and plaques will remain at the allocated site indefinitely. For asset maintenance and financial recording Council depreciates seats and benches over a period to 20 years and this should be taken as a guide as to the likely life of a permanent memorial, although longer periods for such memorials have been experienced.
7. Council will not require the application for consent to install roadside memorials. However Council reserves the right to remove or order the removal of roadside memorials that are either considered a safety hazard or are asked to be removed by the RMS (formerly RTA).

PART 3 – EXEMPTIONS

Nil

PART 4 – CRITERIA

Nil

PART 5 – OTHER MATTERS

Nil

Review: This policy is to be reviewed as necessary or every four (4) years in accordance with Section 165, Local Government Act, 1993.

Resolution No: 456/11 (28 November 2011) Advertised for public submissions
7/12 (23 January 2012) adopted; Adopted without change August 2013
(249/13).
