



(W4) MEMORIALS IN PUBLIC PARKS AND RESERVES

POLICY OBJECTIVE

To provide guidance on the installation of memorials in public parks and reserves (including Roadside Memorials) within the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley and the criteria to be taken into account in relation to requests received for planting of commemorative trees, erection of memorial plaques and distribution of ashes in public parks and reserves.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Shire acknowledges the use of memorials as a means of assisting people to grieve for loved ones and to honour the past contributions of deceased persons within their local community.

Notwithstanding the above, it is also recognised that the installation of memorials within public open spaces must be managed in a way so as to maintain local amenity, ensure the safety of residents and minimise maintenance requirements.

It is the Shire's position that applicants be encouraged to install memorials within designated memorial facilities (e.g. cemeteries). However, applications for the installation of suitable memorials, plaques, trees and furniture in public parks and reserves within the Shire may be considered in accordance with the conditions of this policy.

POLICY DEFINITIONS

Memorial / Monument: Memorials and monuments are objects that are built, placed or preserved in-situ for the purpose of commemorating a person, community, place or event of public significance. Memorials and monuments may incorporate architectural elements, statuary and monolithic objects, such as stones. While these objects may sometimes employ the services of artists in their design and construction, the intent and purpose of memorials and monuments is quite distinct from public art.

Plaque: A plaque is a memorial tablet of stone, metal or other material inscribed with text and/or images commemorating a person, community, place or event of public significance, and/or presenting information that aids in the interpretation of a site or other object. Plaques may be affixed to an object, or placed in the ground adjacent to a tree.

1. Memorials

The installation or erection of stand-alone, monolithic type memorials in parks and reserves is not supported. Persons wishing to commemorate an individual or an organisation are encouraged to donate a suitable piece of park furniture (eg park seat, drinking fountain) which may contain a suitable inscription plaque on it or arrange for the planting of a suitable tree.

2. Commemorative Trees or Park Furniture / Items

(a) Applications for the planting of memorial or commemorative trees park furniture/items in public parks and reserves will be considered on their individual merits. A report will be submitted to the Council and will consider the following criteria:

Whether the person or event has:

- (i) made a significant contribution to the development of the Shire or its community, largely in a voluntary capacity;



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- (ii) made a significant contribution to the long term betterment or improvement of the Shire; or
 - (iii) provided extensive or distinguished service to the Shire or its community;
- (b) Wherever appropriate, the views of adjacent residents or specific community groups be sought prior to Council approval;
 - (c) The tree shall be planted and maintained by the Shire;
 - (d) The selection of tree species and planting location will be carefully considered in view of the type of reserve, existing species, history of requests or associated activities in that reserve.
 - (e) The location of the tree or park furniture shall be at the discretion of the Shire.
 - (f) The inscription plaque on the furniture/item shall be no larger than 100mm x 100mm and made of brass bronze or other approved material and of such design approved by the Shire from time to time.
 - (g) The applicant shall be required to meet the cost of the purchasing and/or erection/installation of the donated tree or furniture/item.
 - (h) The Shire shall reserve the right to remove the furniture/item at any time should it be considered necessary.
 - (i) Substantive installations such statues and similar commemorating individuals, events or organisations should not be approved within 10 years of the death, completion or dissolution of the subject in order to ensure that there is ample opportunity to relatively objectively establish cultural significance.

3. Roadside Memorials

A roadside memorial is a marker that commemorates a site where a person has died, usually as a result of a motor vehicle accident.

The Shire of Derby/West Kimberley respects the need and benefits for people to erect roadside memorials however, the Shire must also ensure that the road/verge/reserve environment is safe for all other users.

3.1 A Roadside Memorial may include:

- (a) a white wooden cross (with the deceased's name, details etc.);
- (b) a grey, concrete paver, painted with a white cross; and
- (c) a decal (adhesive label) with a white cross on a black background.

The above may also include flowers (real or artificial), toys and accompanying notes/messages.

3.2 Roadside Memorials may:

- (a) only be installed in Crown Land that is under the care control and management of the Shire and is reserved for the purposes of recreation, public open space or road reserve; and
- (b) only be installed where there is minimal impact on the local amenity and/or surrounding residents and must not present a risk or hazard to the public.

The deceased's family/friends are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of their roadside memorial including, but not limited to, graffiti and weed removal.



4. Memorial Removal

- (a) Should for any reason an installed memorial becomes disturbed or damaged through works, either by the Shire or its contractors or by external contractors working for another Government Department or Agency, the memorial shall be removed at the expense of the party undertaking the works and returned to the family of the deceased (if known). Subject to the Chief Executive Officer's approval, the memorial may be reinstalled, if appropriate, in the same location or installed in another location nearby at the expense of the applicant.
- (b) Should the ongoing maintenance of an installed memorial become neglected, the Shire reserves the right to remove the memorial and return it to the family of the deceased (if known).
- (c) The Shire will contact the deceased's family prior to the completion of the agreed period of installation to arrange for the memorial's removal or transfer.

5. Distribution of Ashes

- (a) Persons wishing to distribute the ashes of a deceased person on a public park or reserve may make application to the Chief Executive Officer for approval.
- (b) The Chief Executive Officer shall consider each application on its merits (taking into consideration the above criteria).
- (c) Where approval is granted, the ashes are to be distributed at a time and in a manner which causes minimal attention or disruption.

Policy Details			
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Related Documents (other Policies, Operational Procedures, Delegations, etc.):	Not applicable.		
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