
ROADSIDE MEMORIALS

APPROVALS

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CATEGORY	Council Policy		
POLICY OWNER	Manager Infrastructure Planning and Technical Services		
APPROVAL DATE	26 June 2024	RESOLUTION NUMBER	8779

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to provide a framework that sensitively deals with the approval, installation and management of community requests for roadside memorials that publicly commemorate the life of a person (or people) who have died on or near a road.

SCOPE

This policy sets out guidelines for the for installation, placement, maintenance, and removal of roadside memorials alongside Council roads.

DEFINITIONS

TERM / ACRONYM	MEANING
Council	Isaac Regional Council / IRC.
Road	Roads governed and managed by IRC as set out under Section 59 of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> .
Roadside Memorial	Any object placed within the road reserve to commemorate or indicate a road fatality. Memorials may include wooden crosses, coloured posts, and flowers, etc. Monuments (permanent commemorations) are not permitted within a road reserve.
Roadside Monument	A roadside memorial intended as a permanent fixture.

POLICY STATEMENT

Council recognises that some members of the community may wish to commemorate a road fatality by installing a roadside memorial. Council deals sensitively with issues associated with memorials but does not encourage the placement of roadside memorials within the road reserve due to the potential road safety impacts.

This policy has been developed to ensure roadside memorials are placed in a safe location, can be easily maintained, does not cause issues for adjacent property owners, and will cause minimum distraction or hazard to road users.

GENERAL STANDARDS

Roadside memorials must not:

- Distract drivers' attention, disrupt traffic flow, upset nearby residents or road users, or prevent road maintenance.
- Create a hazard for footpath users.
- Alter a public road.

- Be constructed of materials that will cause injury if struck by a vehicle (e.g. concrete or stone, etc.).
- Be reflective or illuminated (including solar lights).
- Become the subject of a gathering or create a public disturbance or littering.
- Be disrespectful, offensive, or cause concern for other road users.
- Be attached to road or non-road related infrastructure (power poles, signs etc.).

In the event that any of the above are evident, the memorial will be removed unless corrected to Council's satisfaction. Roadside memorials erected for any reason other than a fatal motor vehicle accident will be removed.

DESIGN

The design of memorials are required to:

- Be aesthetically suitable to the location.
- Relate to the proposed site or contribute to the design or function of the building/space.
- Conserve the cultural character and natural environment of the building/space.
- Where applicable, be compliant with planning and/or building permit requirements.

Roadside monuments are not permitted within a road reserve and must be constructed of material or installed in a way that will not cause injury if struck by a vehicle and should be contained within the following dimensions:

- Height 750mm
- Width 500mm
- Depth 400mm

LOCATION

Applicants should be aware of possible risks associated with visiting roadside memorials and employ safe practices in this regard, ensuring that they stop clear of traffic. Wherever possible, the location should be chosen to minimise risk.

- A memorial shall be in a position where it will not distract driver attention from the driving task or interfere with the role of any traffic control item.
- A memorial shall be in a position where it will not be hazardous to passing traffic and/or pedestrians or prevent appropriate maintenance of the road reserve.

In the interest of the safety of persons installing a roadside memorial, and the safety of other road users, there are a number of locations where the placement of roadside memorials is restricted, including:

- On the roadway surface.

- On median strips, roundabouts, bridges or overpasses, culverts, or other roadway infrastructure.
- Locations that could hinder or impede emergency services, Council, or utility companies in their maintenance operations (for example, mowing) or accessing services (for example, fire hydrants).
- Locations that restrict a vehicle's sight lines or creates a distraction.
- Where they may interfere/obstruct with the function of any traffic control devices.
- Locations that may pose concerns for residents of adjacent properties.

Council reserves the right to decide the precise positioning, design, and maintenance of memorials to ensure maximum benefit to the community and compliance with surrounding infrastructure.

APPLICATION & INSTALLATION

Applicants shall submit documentation in writing to Council for approval. This application should include:

- Background information on the proposed memorial;
- Location plans and photographs of the surrounding location so that it may be accurately located by Council
- An outline of how the memorial will comply with the requirements of this policy.

In assessing applications Council will consider the following factors in determining whether an application will be approved:

- The number of existing memorials at the location.
- Any future development of the location.
- Planning, building or other legislative requirements.

Council may install or assist in the installation of approved roadside memorials to ensure its placement is in accordance with Council requirements and consideration is given for the safety of road users.

Further information on design, standards and installation guidance, reference may be made to Department of Transport and Main Roads specifications for [Roadside Memorials](#)

RESPONSIBILITIES

Council will not accept responsibility for the maintenance of any roadside memorial, or the loss, damage, removal, or relocation of roadside memorials that may occur due to road maintenance, construction activities or vandalism.

RELOCATION AND REMOVAL

There may be times when road works are required at the location of a roadside memorial. When this is needed, Council will safely and carefully relocate the memorial for the duration of the works and then replace it if practicable.

Every attempt will be made by Council to contact and consult those affected prior to the removal or relocation of a memorial. If the memorial obstructs the completed road works, it may be moved to a new location. All reasonable efforts will be made to contact the persons who applied for erection of the memorial.

In instances when a roadside memorial becomes a road safety hazard, relocation or removal will occur in a sensitive manner.

Any objection or complaint from nearby residents, or from road users regarding any aspect of a memorial, including the activity of visitors to the memorial, will be carefully considered and if necessary, the memorial may be relocated or removed by Council.

All reasonable efforts will be made to contact the affected persons before removal or relocation.

LEGISLATIONS AND RELATED GUIDELINES

- *Local Government Act 2009* (LGA)
- Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities & Roads)

DOCUMENT ID/NAME

NIL