



# Council Policy Manual

---

## CP1.6 Commemorative Works

---

### POLICY OBJECTIVE

This policy:

- Establishes principles and approaches consistent with National standards that inform the City of Perth’s management of commemorative works including memorials, monuments and plaques.
- Guides the consideration of proposals from the community for the placement of new commemorative works within the City of Perth.
- Supports the provision and maintenance of commemorative works in the City of Perth that have significance for our diverse community and are a part of the cultural heritage and identity of our city.

---

### POLICY STATEMENT

#### PREAMBLE

The Burra Charter sets an Australian “standard of practice for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places of cultural significance, including owners, managers and custodians”.

Memorials, monuments and plaques are places of cultural significance that the City of Perth owns, manages, and has the custodianship of. The City’s policy guiding the management of both new and existing commemorative works is therefore appropriately informed by and in alignment with the articles of the Burra Charter.

#### DEFINITIONS

##### *Cultural Significance*

Article 1.2 in the Burra Charter defines cultural significance in the following terms:

*Cultural significance means aesthetic, historical, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.*



# Council Policy Manual

---

## CP1.6 Commemorative Works

*Cultural significance is embodied in place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.*

*Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.*

### *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 a building, an object, or placed in the paving.

Throughout this policy, unless otherwise stated, all three kinds of object will be called commemorative works.

## **1. PRINCIPLES**

The principles guiding the City of Perth's approach to commemorative works are as follows:

The City of Perth's commemorative works:

- a) Are material features in the landscape corresponding to places of cultural significance, and are embodiments of cultural significance.
- b) Have an important role to play in the conservation of places of cultural significance and are assets to be conserved in a sustainable and sensitive way.
- c) Must be managed on the basis of appropriate evidence giving access to an understanding of the cultural significance embodied in the object and the place.



# Council Policy Manual

---

## CP1.6 Commemorative Works

- d) Have an impact upon the use of places in the city and their management should be compatible with the uses of a place and should not be to the detriment of the cultural significance of a place.
- e) Should support the co-existence of diverse cultural values held by people in our community through recognition, respect, and encouragement, especially in cases where such values conflict.
- f) Should be managed in a way that provides for the participation of communities for whom the place has cultural significance.

## 2. CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

2.1 All decisions concerning the management of new and existing commemorative works should be informed by the collection and presentation of evidence that clearly establishes the cultural significance of the work and its relationship to the site and community.

2.2 A commemorative work will be considered to possess cultural significance if it can be shown to meet at least one of the following primary criteria:

- a) Historic Significance
  - i. The subject of the commemorative work has made an outstanding contribution to changing the course of history of the site or the City of Perth, or has had an impact on the development of Perth.
  - ii. The commemorative work, as a preserved historical object, embodies some aspect of the course or pattern of Western Australia's natural or cultural history.
- b) Aesthetic Significance
  - i. The commemorative work is an outstanding example of artistic achievement, style, design or technical accomplishment.
  - ii. The commemorative work plays a key role in enhancing the aesthetic experience of the site.
- c) Scientific Significance
  - i. The commemorative work provides unique access to key evidence with the potential to yield information or knowledge that will contribute to an understanding of Western Australia's natural or cultural history.
- d) Social or Spiritual Significance



# Council Policy Manual

---

## CP1.6 Commemorative Works

- i. The commemorative work embodies beliefs, ideas, customs, traditions, associations, practices, places or stories that contribute to a community's sense of ownership and identification with it.
- ii. The commemorative work is the focus of existing or envisaged social, cultural or spiritual practices for the community.

2.3 New commemorative works can contribute to the conservation of a place of cultural significance through:

- a) Being themselves the site or focus of commemorative events and activities for the community (eg. parades, rituals, visitations etc).
- b) Reinstating some dimension of cultural significance for the community at the site that has been lost, destroyed or covered over.

2.4 Existing commemorative works may themselves be historical features of the landscape with cultural significance as heritage items that require preservation and conservation.

2.5 It is acknowledged that cultural significance can change as a result of the unfolding history of a place and as the result of new information. Strategies for the reinterpretation of commemorative works to re-contextualise, restore contemporary relevance and address cultural sensitivities should be employed, using appropriate reversible means, to address changes in cultural significance.

## 3. SUBJECTS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS

3.1 The subject for a new commemorative work should be:

- a) An individual, or organisation, that has made an outstanding contribution to changing the course of history of the site or the City of Perth, or has had an impact on the development of Perth.
- b) An event or achievement that has made an outstanding contribution to changing the course of history of the site or the City of Perth, or has had an impact on the development of Perth.
- c) A culturally significant event or story that contributes to a community's sense of ownership and identification with a particular site in the City of Perth.



# Council Policy Manual

---

## CP1.6 Commemorative Works

3.2 Works 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.

3.3 Where the subject of a new or existing commemorative work has been established to be of cultural significance for the State or the Nation the City of Perth will seek to work in partnership with State and Federal Governments to establish and maintain such items.

3.4 New commemorative works should not be approved where the subject has already been commemorated elsewhere in the Perth metropolitan area, except where circumstances prove to be truly exceptional.

## 4. SITES FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS

4.1 Commemorative works in the City of Perth are site specific. A strong case must be made for the culturally significant correspondence between the nominated site, subject and planned form of any new memorial proposal.

4.2 New commemorative works proposed for a public place in the City of Perth must not diminish the cultural significance of the place for the broader community, and must not impact negatively on the existing uses of the place by the broader community.

4.3 New commemorative works proposals must be consistent with Council approved plans for the proposed site.

## 5. CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW COMMEMORATIVE WORKS

5.1 Applicants proposing new commemorative works must demonstrate in their application that the proposed commemorative works will be:

- i. designed and constructed by qualified professionals in a field relevant to the site, scale and complexity of the proposal;
- ii. constructed of durable materials to minimise ongoing maintenance requirements;
- iii. of high quality and be of a scale and character that is appropriate for the proposed site;
- iv. site specific with a demonstrated culturally significant correspondence between the nominated site, subject and planned form the new memorial;
- v. designed to meet all the requirements and criteria set out in Policy 1.5 - Public Art, for acquisition and accession into the Public Art Collection (not applicable to plaques); and,
- vi. must meet all of the requirements for set out in the City's Contributed Assets Policy 9.15 in order for the City of Perth to accept ownership of the asset.



# Council Policy Manual

---

## CP1.6 Commemorative Works

5.2 The onus is on applicants proposing new commemorative works for public places in the City of Perth to provide in their application:

- i. a detailed assessment and statement demonstrating the cultural significance of the subject and proposed commemorative work. This assessment and statement is to be prepared by an independent expert with relevant credentials in keeping with the guidelines in the Burra Charter.
- ii. clear evidence that a public commemorative work is justified and that the work's value will be recognised by the broader community, as there are alternatives available which may be more appropriate for private commemoration.

5.3 No existing commemorative work in the City of Perth shall provide a precedent for future approvals.

## 6. COMMUNITY

Given the cultural significance of commemorative works, the City will require that appropriate community consultation is undertaken to ensure that relevant community interests are represented and community participation is facilitated to inform decision making.

## 7. FUNDING

7.1 All costs associated with all new memorials are to be financed by the applicants, including costs associated with community consultation and the assessment and evaluation of the proposal.

7.2 The City of Perth may, at its discretion, choose to partner with applicants, offering additional support for a new memorial project, where the broad community benefit of such a partnership has been established, and the City has resources available.

## 8. DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

8.1 Where approved by the City of Perth, acknowledgement of benefactors on the site of a commemorative work will be discrete and will not compete with the subject of the memorial.

8.2 Logos and donor acknowledgements, if approved by the City of Perth, will cover no more than 10% of the total text or surface area of any commemorative work.

## 9. OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

9.1 Unless otherwise established through a formal agreement in writing, all commemorative works approved for placement within the public realm of the City of Perth are deemed to be owned and under the unconditional control of the City of Perth and will be managed in accordance with the City's relevant policies and procedures.



# Council Policy Manual

## CP1.6 Commemorative Works

9.2 As commemorative works are places of cultural significance they should be conserved indefinitely in keeping with the articles of the Burra Charter.

9.3 Memorials and Monuments (but not Plaques) approved by the City of Perth are managed and maintained as items accessioned into the City’s Public Art Collection.

9.4 Commemorative plaques are documented in the City’s asset register for plaques and will be managed and maintained by the City of Perth.

Document Control Box							
<b>Document Responsibilities:</b>							
<b>Custodian:</b>	Public Art Program Coordinator			<b>Custodian Unit:</b>	Arts, Culture and Heritage		
<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Council						
<b>Compliance Requirements:</b>							
<b>Legislation:</b>	Local Government Act 1995						
<b>Industry:</b>	The Burra Charter (ICOMOS Australia)						
<b>Organisational:</b>	Public Art Strategy, Public Art Policy CP 1.5						
<b>Document Management:</b>							
<b>Risk Rating:</b>		<b>Review Frequency:</b>		<b>Next Due:</b>		<b>TRIM Ref:</b>	75522/04
<b>Version #</b>	<b>Decision Reference:</b>		<b>Synopsis:</b>				
1.	?		(Originally) BU6 – Memorial Footpath Plaques – Laying of				
2.	Council Meeting 24 June 2003 (P1017705)		Memorials, Monuments and Plaques 1.6				
3.	OCM 15/12/15 587/15		Amended & name changed from Memorials, Monuments and Plaques				