ROADSIDE MEMORIALS POLICY

Policy Number:	4.3.2
Approved by:	Council
Date Approved:	December 2021
Date of Next Review:	December 2022
Applicable to Unit(s):	Built Environment Natural Environment
Responsible Officer:	Manager Built Environment
Related Policies:	Nil
Related Documents:	Nil
Statutory Reference:	Nil

OVERVIEW

The purpose of this policy is to establish a framework for the installation, construction and placement of roadside fatality memorials on roads for which Wellington Shire Council is the Coordinating Authority. It follows from the VicRoads Roadside Memorial Policy 2015, which covers Roadside Memorials on roads for which VicRoads / Regional Roads Victoria is the Coordinating Authority.

THE POLICY

Council will use the following framework in relation to the installation, construction and placement of roadside fatality memorials on roads for which Wellington Shire Council is the Coordinating Authority.

A roadside memorial is any object constructed, erected or placed on the road or within the road reserve to commemorate/indicate a road fatality. Memorials can include items such as wooden crosses, coloured posts, flowers or any type of construction with or without plaques or inscriptions.

Applications for both temporary memorials (less than 12 months) and longer-term memorials should be submitted in writing to the Manager Built Environment for review and consideration.

Permanent roadside memorials are not encouraged, and a transitional approach will be considered to meet the needs of individuals and the broader community. The transition may include relocating a memorial to an appropriate permanent location with significance to the family, outside of the road reserve. All requests for permanent memorials require Council approval.

When considering requests, the following criteria will be considered.

Location

The safety of road users in addition to those who place and visit roadside memorials are both considerations for an appropriate location of a roadside memorial. The following factors are relevant the location of memorials:

- A memorial should be located in a position where it will not distract drivers' attention or interfere with the role of any traffic control item.
- A memorial should be located such that visitors can safely access the memorial and continue to be safe in the time spent there.
- The locations of the memorial should be such that appropriate maintenance within the road

reserve can be undertaken, without causing interference, risk or damage to the memorial

Design and Construction Standard

A memorial must be constructed of material or installed in a way that will not cause injury if struck by a vehicle. Where a memorial incorporates a plaque, it should ideally be placed horizontally as close to the surface level as possible. Flowers or other mementos must be secured at the memorial site to prevent potential road safety hazards**.**

Where requested by the Manager Built Environment, applications must be supported by a site-specific design and risk assessment completed by an appropriately qualified and experienced engineering professional in line with current industry standards and guidelines.

Other

- Objection received from nearby residents or the broader community regarding a roadside memorial, including the activity of visitors to the memorial, should be carefully considered. Any actions as a result will be made in consultation with the roadside memorial applicant.
- Applicants should be advised that the Wellington Shire is not able to accept responsibility for the maintenance of memorials, or any loss, damage, removal or relocation of roadside memorials that may occur due to road maintenance or construction activities.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Wellington Shire Council is committed to upholding the Human Rights principles as outlined in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)* and referred to in Council's Human Rights Policy. The Human Rights Checklist has been completed and this policy accords with Council's policy commitment to uphold human rights principles.