

City of Hobart

Policy

Title: City of Hobart Memorials Policy

Category: Parks; Heritage; Arts & Culture

Date Last Adopted: TBC

This policy outlines:

- i. A contemporary approach to managing all aspects of memorials on land managed by City of Hobart
- ii. Criteria by which to assess proposals for the establishment or removal of memorials in the City of Hobart

For the purpose of this document, the term **memorial** applies to all forms of physical permanent objects given a specific attribution, including plaques, monuments, sculptures, markers and horticultural / landscape elements

A. Objectives

- To provide clear guidance when considering requests for new memorials on land owned and managed by the City of Hobart.
- To establish a consistent approach and decision-making process, when assessing both prospective and existing memorials in the City of Hobart.
- To maintain flexible, inclusive open spaces for the City
- To approve memorials for the City that reflect this place, its community, and its history

B. Background

Memorials, in their myriad forms, tell stories about people, groups, places and events. They are a physical expression of prevailing ideas and beliefs within the community. Their purpose is to create connection between people and place, marking points of cultural resonance in the landscape that carry meaning through time. Memorial siting is important and may need to be, for example a quiet location or one conducive to contemplation and/or are of sufficient size to hold a public gathering.



This memorials policy has been developed as a single reference point, to encompass contemporary thinking around commemoration, allow for greater alignment with the City's Community Vision and improve clarity for applicants.

Hobart has finite public space. It needs to address open space requirements of residents, visitors and events. Streets and footpaths need to accommodate wide range of activities including transportation, pedestrians and street life.

Given their impact on public space, a memorial in the City of Hobart must be assessed against its positive value and significance to wider community, not only at application stage but periodically throughout its lifetime. In addition, memorials can be costly over time considering the required community and Council engagement, assessment, design, construction, ongoing maintenance and potential removal .

The City receives requests for memorials for people, groups, events, flora and fauna. In light of recent global, national and local discussions regarding memorials, all existing City of Hobart policies have been reviewed.

The majority of requests for memorials to the City of Hobart occur via the Open Space, Parks and Waterways Units and take the form of plaques or simple dedications with the planting of new trees. Organisations can also donate park infrastructure on which commemorative plaques are attached. These requests are considered under certain conditions and are subject to available space and relevant asset management plans.

On an ongoing basis, the City will reassess its collection and may consider deaccessioning existing memorials on the basis of condition, major capital works projects, site use changes, master plans, conservation plans, strong community desire, excessive maintenance/renewal burden, or shifting relevance to the City of Hobart. This is important because once established, all memorials become an asset and responsibility of the City. This includes the financial responsibility of ongoing maintenance, repair and removal or relocation.

This policy builds upon Hobart's **Capital City Strategic Plan 2023**. Including the following key principles:

***2.1** Hobart is a place that recognises and celebrates Tasmanian Aboriginal people, history and culture, working together towards shared goals.*

***2.2** Hobart is a place where diversity is celebrated and everyone can belong, and where people have opportunities to learn about one another and participate in city life*

***3.4** Civic and heritage spaces support creativity, resulting in a vibrant public realm.*

***6.5** Hobart's bushland, parks and reserves are places for sport, recreation and play.*

***7.4** Community involvement and an understanding of future needs help guide changes to Hobart's built environment.*

***8.1** Hobart is a city that is well governed that recognises the community as an active partner that informs decisions.*



C. Scope

This policy informs an approach to memorials on land managed by City of Hobart relating to:

- i. Requests for new memorials
- ii. Proposed gifts, relocation and re-interpretation of memorials
- iii. Requests to remove memorials

D. Out of scope

While statues and plaques are common forms of memorial, there are many other meaningful forms of memorialisation that fall outside of the scope of this policy as they are either outcomes that are unlikely to permanently affect public space in Hobart or involve processes outside of the jurisdiction of a local government authority. The City encourages interested parties to explore all options in considering the format of their memorial, including but not limited to:

- i. Online content and/or augmented reality applications that make places interactive in the digital realm
- ii. Public artworks
- iii. Celebratory events
- iv. Written history, theatrical or audiovisual tributes
- v. The naming or renaming of a place (whether public or private), subject to state legislation.

This policy does not apply to signage or markers installed by the City of Hobart for the purposes of interpretation and wayfinding.

This policy does not apply to temporary and/or spontaneous memorials on roadsides or in public spaces that occur as community responses to (often traumatic) events.

E. Definitions

- A **memorial** is a two or three-dimensional object or feature designed to recognise and/or commemorate a person, flora / fauna, group or event. For the purpose of this document, the term applies to all forms of permanent physical objects given a specific attribution - including plaques, monuments, sculptures, markers and horticultural / landscape elements.
- A **plaque** is a flat piece of metal, stone or other durable material with a two-dimensional face that can be fixed to an object, pavement or building. A plaque may include text and/or images to recognise a person, flora / fauna, group or event, or to interpret the history of a public place.



- **Public space**, in the context of this policy, is land that is owned or managed by the City of Hobart and open or accessible to the public. This includes parks, bushland reserves, sports fields, exterior or public-facing interior of Council buildings, median strips, footpaths, public squares and laneways.
- A **monument** is deemed to be an architectural structure or statue which has (or is expected to have) enduring significance. It may or may not have a memorial function.
- A **marker** is specifically used to identify a historically or culturally significant place that is not otherwise marked or evident as a significant place. It provides historical information and is part of a coordinated historical marking program.
- A **sculpture** is an artistic form in which materials are worked into three dimensional art objects. The designs may be embodied in freestanding objects or as reliefs on surfaces. A sculpture may also be a monument.
- **Deaccessioning** is when an asset (land, buildings or items located on land or in buildings) is permanently removed from the collection of assets that the Council own and maintain.

F. Policy

1. FRAMING STATEMENTS

- 1.1. The City of Hobart is committed to protecting the distinctive character of its parks and public domain.
- 1.2. With finite space and growing population, the City must balance the diverse open space needs of residents, visitors and natural fauna/flora.
- 1.3. As a capital city, Hobart carefully considers requests for new memorials. Memorials that honour individuals, organisations, places, events, and flora / fauna must represent stories unique to Tasmania that have national / international significance and be appropriately designed and located in order to be considered eligible.
- 1.4. In order to address existing imbalances, the City will support:
 - i. the representation of Tasmanian Aboriginal people in acknowledgement of traditional owners / custodians of land and 60,000+ years of occupation,
 - ii. the stories and contributions of under-recognised groups including (but not limited to) women, multicultural community and the LGBTIQ+ community.

1.5. The City will pursue a shift from commemorating lone historical figures (i.e. statues), toward supporting more universal themes that focus upon shared community stories (social, political, cultural events).

1.6. The City will increasingly question and emphasise:

- i. the ongoing relevance and positive impact of memorials in public space, in relation to community and its collective identity and aspirations,
- ii. appropriate forms of representation that consider current approaches to place-making and outcomes, e.g. using existing infrastructure and / or having a smaller footprint on the physical public realm.
- iii. Approaches that embrace interpretation and/or re-interpretation

2. KEY CRITERIA

2.1 Proposed memorials should meet all of the following criteria:

- i. recognise subjects that are uniquely Tasmanian whilst of national / international importance,
- ii. reflect the evolving values, ideas and aspirations of the Hobart community and have cultural significance that is aesthetic, historic, scientific or of social value for present and future generations of citizens,
- iii. Reflect strong support from a large cross-section of community.

3. COMMITTEE GUIDELINES FOR ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSALS FOR NEW MEMORIALS

3.1. No new memorials will be considered to commemorate a subject already memorialised.

3.2. Memorials must have strong and wide-reaching community support and their advocates must be able to demonstrate this support and commit to ongoing community engagement processes, where required.

3.3. It is the responsibility of the applicant to have all associated factual information, pertaining to a proposed memorial, thoroughly researched and accepted by the Memorials Committee.

3.4. Proposed memorials must relate to subject matter that is at least five years old – i.e. events that occurred at least five years ago or people who died at least five years ago. There may be rare exceptions in which the Memorials Committee consider a reduced time frame.

3.5. Memorials must not visually or physically detract from their location or existing artworks, landscape features or other memorials in the area.

- 3.6. Proposed memorials (excluding plaques) must demonstrate a strong artistic concept that is central to the story being told.
- 3.7. Any wording on memorials must be suitable for a public place and general audience. It should demonstrate accessible language and avoid terminology and phrasing used in cemeteries. The final format and wording is to be approved by the Memorials Committee.
- 3.8. Memorials commemorating commercial entities *will not* be considered.
- 3.9. Memorials cannot display any form of commercial logo or branding. In specific instances the logo of community groups and organisations is acceptable.
- 3.10. Memorials must be designed with consideration for maintenance, durability, public safety, and maintaining access to all to the City's public spaces.
- 3.11. Memorials must align with relevant City of Hobart policies, including (but not limited to) cultural, gender, diversity and social inclusion policies.
- 3.12. Memorials must comply with all relevant legislation, including (but not limited to) Planning legislation.
- 3.13. Memorials intended for roadsides must be discussed with the relevant Asset or Road Manager prior to the proposal being assessed by the committee.
- 3.14. All costs of design, fabrication and installation of the proposed memorial will be covered by the proposing individual or group, unless agreed otherwise with the City of Hobart.
- 3.15. Once established, all memorials become an asset and responsibility of the City of Hobart. This includes the financial responsibility of ongoing maintenance, repair and removal or relocation.
- 3.16. Within the boundaries of the City there are several areas that are managed by separate organisations and/or subject to specific guidelines and policies exempt of or additional to this policy. Refer to **Special Area Schedule** in **Section H**.

4. COMMITTEE GUIDELINES FOR REMOVAL OF EXISTING MEMORIALS

4.1. The City does not guarantee the retention of any memorial in perpetuity and maintains the right to remove or relocate it, taking into consideration any risk to community, ongoing maintenance costs, or plans to redevelop and/or significantly change the character of the site.

4.2. Proposals for removal of memorials must have strong community and wide-reaching support and their advocates must be able to demonstrate this support and commit to ongoing community engagement processes, where required.

4.3. It is the responsibility of the applicant to have all associated factual information, pertaining to a proposed memorial removal, thoroughly researched and accepted by the Memorials Committee.

4.4. The element for removal will be assessed for contemporary significance to the community and City. The Assessment framework developed from the Burra Charter and associated conservation planning documents would be used in the instance of a heritage element but could also be valuable as a means to assess other, unlisted elements.

4.5. A proposal for removal may be considered against a pragmatic assessment of the memorial in terms of age, current condition, ongoing maintenance costs and risk management.

4.6. A proposal for removal will also be assessed in relation to the expected benefits to community / the City.

4.7. If the memorial to be removed / relocated has an artistic element, the City of Hobart will make all reasonable efforts to locate and consult with the authors/artists in respect of their Moral Rights outlined under the Copyright Act 1968.

5. MEMORIAL TREE PLANTING

5.1. Memorial Tree with a Plaque

Where a memorial plaque is to be associated with the planting of a commemorative tree, it is subject to all aspects of this policy (points 1 – 4) and the following applies:

5.1.1. Applications for a memorial tree with a plaque will be assessed by the Memorials Committee, and

5.1.2. The plaque must not exceed a maximum size of 300mm x 300mm.

5.2. Memorial tree without a plaque

Requests may be made to the City for the planting of a tree for a personal memorial, where aspects of this policy (points 1-4) do not apply. Requests for planting of memorial trees in parks



will be reviewed by the City of Hobart's Manager Open Space or equivalent role. The placement of a tree in a park is an acknowledgement for personal and private remembrance and the following applies:

5.2.1.

-The deceased person(s) must have been a resident of Hobart.

5.2.2.

Applications will only be considered if the person(s) has been deceased for at least one year.

5.2.3.

A Memorial Tree Planting Certificate will be provided after planting. This certificate will include:

- The name of the person commemorated
- The name of the person/family/ group supporting the tree planting, upon request
- The planting date
- Tree species
- Park name
- GPS location
- The memorial tree will also be registered in the City's asset system.

5.3. Memorial tree selection and maintenance:

For approved requests for a memorial tree, the following applies:

5.3.1.

The location and species of the tree will be decided in consultation with the applicant but must be to the satisfaction of the City of Hobart.

5.3.2.

Trees will be selected from the City's nursery or other suitable stock as determined by the City arboricultural team.

5.3.3.

Planting will occur during the cooler months and will be undertaken by the City arboricultural team, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the City.

5.3.4.

Once planted, standard arboricultural practices will be followed for tree maintenance by the City arboricultural team, in line with the City's tree management framework.

5.3.5.

If removal of the tree (and/or plaque) is necessary, the applicant will be informed where possible.

5.3.6.

The tree (and/or plaque) will remain in place for the life of the asset, unless deemed necessary to remove earlier by the Manager Open Space or equivalent role, such as in instances where the tree (and/or plaque) poses physical risk to community or should the site be redeveloped or significantly changed in character.

5.4. Costs

The following applies in relation to costs for a memorial tree:

5.4.1.

All expenses related to the tree planting (including the advanced tree, site preparation, and



two years of maintenance) are the responsibility of the applicant, unless otherwise agreed with the City of Hobart.

5.4.2.

All costs associated with installation of a plaque, if approved, are the responsibility of the applicant, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the City.

5.4.3.

Should a memorial be lost or damaged beyond repair through vandalism or other event then the replacement costs will be the responsibility of the donor.

6. DONATIONS OF PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

6.1. The City may consider the donation of park infrastructure (including tables, benches, barbeques, drinking fountains) on the provision that these items align with material / design standards and infrastructure planning of the City.

6.2. Council no longer allows memorial plaques on seats or infrastructure. These features have a short asset life and are sadly prone to vandalism.

6.2.1. Memorial trees are a preferred alternative to plaques on infrastructure in parks.

7. PLAQUES ON OR IN BUILDINGS

7.1. Plaques on or in buildings will be assessed and approved based on their relevance and importance to the building and sections 1-4 of the policy may not apply.

G. Process

INSTALLATION AND REMOVAL

The City regularly receives proposals from individual community members, community groups and external parties for the establishment or removal of memorials.

- All applications must be made by completing the Memorial Application Form (downloadable at www.hobartcity.com.au/memorials - *webpage yet to be established*)
- The Memorials Committee will assess all proposals against the criteria and guidelines of this policy and, where applicable, refer these applications to third-party bodies for advice and guidance.
- All proposals must be approved by the Memorials Committee and may require the applicant to seek Landlord or CEO consent as well as apply for all necessary statutory and planning approvals.

Any significant removal proposal will require community engagement and may also require initial endorsement by Council in order to progress to Planning Permit stage.

Consideration of the future ownership of any item to be deaccessioned will be managed on a case-by-case basis.



RESPONSIBILITIES

- i. **Applicants** are responsible for funding their proposal and working closely with the City of Hobart to design a memorial of sufficient artistic and structural quality to be suitable for installation in a public place on land managed by the City of Hobart. They will be required to demonstrate community support for their application.
- ii. **The Memorials Committee**, consisting of City of Hobart staff from appropriate areas including land managers and external expertise (where required), is responsible for applying the Policy and Process to each application, in order to identify and potentially approve eligible requests. The Committee will meet two times a year and carry out any follow-up actions as required, including seeking expert advice or community feedback.
 - The Committee is also responsible for the ongoing review and updates to this policy
 - The decisions of the Memorials Committee will be provided to the Hobart City Council for final endorsement.
- iii. **The Chair of the Memorials Committee**, a relevant senior manager, is responsible for ensuring applicants are given timely information about the progress of their application and for the effective running of the Committee. This includes ensuring appropriate input from relevant external experts and additional internal staff as required.
- iv. **External experts** will be approached as needed to provide advice on particular elements of an application, such as historical accuracy, wording or artistic potential/merit.
- v. **Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural leaders** will be asked to provide advice and guidance for relevant proposed memorials or deaccessions, where Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural content and history is an intended or implied part of the final outcome.

REFERENCES

Memorials are expected to comply with relevant legislation and policies. A range of current City of Hobart policies will also guide the implementation of this policy, including:

- *Hobart Interim Planning Scheme 2015*
- *Sullivans Cove Planning Scheme 1997*
- *Capital City Strategic Plan 2023*
- *Aboriginal Commitment and Action Plan (UNDER REVIEW)*
- *Equal Access Commitment (UNDER REVIEW)*
- *Hobart: A city for all - Community Inclusion and Equity Framework*
- *LGBTIQ+ Commitment (UNDER REVIEW)*
- *Multicultural Commitment (UNDER REVIEW)*
- *Soldiers Memorial Avenue Action Plan*
- *Youth Commitment (UNDER REVIEW)*
- *City of Hobart Public Art Framework 2019*
- The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013
<https://australia.icomos.org/publications/burra-charter-practice-notes/>

H. Special Area Schedule

The following areas are subject to special conditions/exemptions, to be read **with** the policy:

No	Name of area	Special conditions
1	Queen's Domain	Memorials, memorial planting or furniture donations will be considered by the Plaques and Memorials committee, except within any areas on the Tasmanian Heritage Register or within a 10m radius of any existing heritage areas.
2	Cenotaph/Regatta Grounds	Additional memorials will only be considered within the committee guidelines in this area if developed to memorialise nationally or internationally recognised conflict involving Australia . No memorials to individuals, groups of individuals, or specific units will be introduced at the Cenotaph. The Cenotaph was conceived as a memorial to all Tasmanians who served in World War I and subsequent conflicts and campaigns.
3	Hobart Waterfront (Tas Ports owned land)	Any applications are subject to Tas Ports approval and any relevant legislative requirements including local area plans.
4	Mawson Place	No additional memorials will be considered in this area, and over time, the aim will be to deaccession existing memorials to retain clear and flexible space for events and public use.
5	Franklin Square	No additional proposals for memorials will be considered in this area, excepting additional interpretive elements for existing monuments. The recommendation to "provide more diverse interpretation of the park's cultural heritage" was included in the Franklin Square Master Plan 2014 (recommendation (iv)).
6	Friendship Wall	Managed by the International Wall of Friendship (founded with support from the Commonwealth Government). This area is reserved for large, engraved plaques expressing "friendship and goodwill" with Hobart for local multicultural communities. There are spare spaces available on a newly opened section of the wall. This is not a City of Hobart owned or managed area. All queries are to: Jade Li lhq0837@gmail.com
7	St David's Park	Memorials may be provided adjacent to existing monuments or headstones in instances where there is a significant cultural association with a person or persons identified in the original headstone or monument. This would be in accordance with the Headstones, Monuments and Commemorative Plaques policy, 22March 1999
8	Parliament Gardens	These gardens are owned by Parliament House and any application for a memorial must be forwarded to The Sergeant-At-Arms, who would provide it in a report to the House Committee of the Parliament.



9	Salamanca Lawns	No memorials will be considered for this area, which is to be retained as a flexible events area for the whole community.
10	Princes Park	Memorial Planting may be considered by the Plaques and Memorials Committee in Princes Park, subject to the planting regime of the City of Hobart's Arboriculture Team, and the availability of space within the park.
11	Peace Park	New memorial Planting and/or Plaques may be considered within this park as long as the proposals are congruent with the aims and ambition of the Park as established by local residents
12	Hobart Rivulet Park (City entry area)	Memorial Planting may be considered by the Plaques and Memorials Committee in this section of the Rivulet Park, subject to the planting regime of the City of Hobart's Arboriculture Team, and the availability of space within the area.
13	St Andrew's Park	Memorials may be provided adjacent to existing monuments or headstones in instances where there is a significant cultural association with a person or persons identified in the original headstone or monument. This would be in accordance with the Headstones, Monuments and Commemorative Plaques policy, 22March 1999
14	kunanyi/Mount Wellington Park	This area is managed by the Wellington Park Management Trust, which has its own policy for memorials. Any requests for memorials within the kunanyi/Mount Wellington Park will be referred directly to the Wellington Park Management Trust.

Responsible Officer: Director Connected City

Policy first adopted by the Council:

History

Amended by Council

Next Review Date:

File Reference:
