

POLICY NAME:	Strathfield Council Memorials Policy
COUNCIL ADOPTION:	15 February 2005
REF:	Minute No. 38/05
RELEVANT LEGISLATION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Government Act 1993• Geographical Names Act 1966
RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strathfield Council Sponsorship Policy• Strathfield Council Plans of Management• Strathfield Planning Scheme Ordinance

PURPOSE

To provide a policy to guide Council on the placing and installation of memorials.

SCOPE OF POLICY

1. This policy is applicable to all memorials proposed to be placed in any public open space within Strathfield. All such memorials will be required to conform to this policy.
2. This policy replaces any previous approval or process in regard to the installation of a memorial within Strathfield. Existing memorials or plaques cannot be employed as precedent for future approvals.
3. Any alterations to an existing memorial will need to comply with this policy. This policy does not prevent maintenance or conservation of any previous memorial that does not comply with this policy.
4. This policy does not include advertising or sponsorships that are covered by Strathfield Council's Sponsorship Policy.
5. This Policy is not applicable to public art, unless the art is commemorative.
6. This policy is not applicable to privately owned property.
7. The policy is applicable to memorials installed by Council.

DEFINITIONS

Commemorate

To serve as a memento of..... Or Honour the memory of..... by solemnity or event.

Memorial

An object that is designed to preserve the memory of a person, group, association, event or occasion. This policy includes but is not limited to:

- Statues,
- Monuments,
- Cenotaph,
- Commemorative Plaques,
- Placenames,
- Building, object names,
- Groves of Trees etc.
- War Memorials

Public Open Space

Includes community land, road reserve and operational land owned by Council and any other land in Councils care, control or management.

Strathfield

The Municipality there of, not limited to the suburb of Strathfield.

Strathfield Community & Community

Group of people that live, belong to or share identity or interests within the Municipal Boundary of Strathfield and surrounding area.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. To provide a policy to guide Council on the placing and installation of memorials.
2. To provide a clear, open, equitable and accountable process for the placement of memorials.
3. To ensure the design and siting of memorials is consistent with community interest.
4. To ensure the placement of memorials:
 - a. Conserves the natural, heritage and cultural character and environment of Strathfield's public open space.
 - b. Does not attract vandalism or future expenditure.
5. To ensure the placement of any memorial does not present a safety risk now and in the future.
6. To fulfil the legislative requirements in relation to the management of Community Land, Crown Land and Operational land and other land under the care, control or management of Council.

CRITERIA

1. No memorial is to be placed in Strathfield Municipality unless it is consistent with the relevant Plans of Management. If there is no plan of management it must be consistent with the lands public purpose and must not result in a change of use of the land.
2. Memorials and plaques will only be considered where they satisfy one of the following criteria:
 - a. Commemorating a deceased individual who was a member of the Strathfield Community and has contributed significantly to the Strathfield Community.
 - b. Commemorating a community association and/or group that have contributed significantly to the Strathfield Community.

- c. Commemorating places or events of national, state or local significance.
 - d. War Memorials
3. Infrastructure - Memorials can encompass all infrastructure (barbecues, buildings, shade covers, picnic shelters, retaining walls, fountains, sections of pathway, fencing, tables, chairs, playgrounds etc)
4. Ecologically Sustainable Development - The placement of memorials in Strathfield is to be consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
5. War Memorials - Tributes to the engagement of troops central to the defence of Australia may only be considered after conclusion of the war, where the labours of all involved are recognised.
6. Financial Implications - In considering approval for a memorial, Council will consider:
 - a. How the construction/installation of the memorial will be funded;
 - b. The applicants ongoing commitment to maintenance costs including responsibility for vandalism and theft; and
 - c. How the ongoing maintenance will be funded.
7. Financial Burden
 - a. Memorials that have a significant financial burden for Council will **not be considered**.
 - b. The applicant must meet all ongoing maintenance costs of the memorial including vandalism and theft, and if required the applicant must meet all replacement costs. The memorial will not be replaced at Councils expense.
 - c. In the event that a memorial is damaged or requires funding where the original applicant is no longer in existence Council may resolve to repair or remove the memorial.
8. Existing Sites- The placement of memorials will take into account the number of existing memorials, artworks or other objects in the vicinity of the proposed new memorial or park.
9. Place Names - Dedication of Placenames must be referred to the Geographical Names Board for approval and gazettal. It must be noted that not all placenames are memorials and therefore are not guided by this policy.
10. Development Consent - Certain types of memorials may also require development consent under Strathfield Planning Scheme Ordinance. The applicant is required to lodge a development application. Such consent should be sought after approval of the memorial prior to commencement of the work. The application to Council must state if the Strathfield Planning Scheme Ordinance permits the memorial and if development consent is required.
11. Offensive Elements - A memorial will not be considered if it may reasonably be considered offensive by members of the community.
12. Religion & Political Affiliations - A memorial will not be considered for the purpose of a religious or political affiliation. These elements may only be considered where the applicant can prove to the Councils satisfaction that the subject of the memorial has contributed significantly to the Strathfield Community, beyond the standard activities of office or meets the requirements of the criteria listed under point 2. This does not preclude the dedication of a memorial that is not based on religious or political elements, by a religious or political representative or commemorative activity that may include religious elements.

APPLICATIONS

Applications must be in writing with supporting evidence demonstrating that the memorial meets the criteria of this policy.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

If a request for installation of a memorial meets the criteria of this policy, prior to approval Council must place the proposal on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days and receive written comments for a further period of 14 days. Relevant stakeholders should be invited to make comment in writing; they may include Geographical Names Board, National Trust, RSL and the Strathfield District Historical Society.

In the case of an insignificant / small memorial such as a plaque, Council may waive the Community Consultation Period.

Any public notice must describe public open space in common terms as per section 54A of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

REGISTER

Council must keep a register of memorials. This must be kept by Councils Governance section.