

**OUTCOME OF ADVERTISING AND ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO MEMORIALS IN PUBLIC PLACES AND RESERVES POLICY****TRIM Ref:**

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**Attachments:** Nil

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **ADOPTS the Memorials in Public Places and Reserves Policy at Attachment 1**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To present the outcome of community consultation and seek approval of the proposed Memorials in Public Places and Reserves Policy at **Attachment 1**

**BACKGROUND:**

At its 16 November 2022 Meeting, Council approved conducting community consultation of its intention to amend the Memorials in Public Places and Reserves Policy

In accordance with the City's [Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy](#), community consultation was undertaken between 7 December 2021 until 7 January 2022 which is in excess of the 21 days required due to the Christmas holiday period.

The policy was advertised on the City of Vincent website, social media and local print media.

At the end of the consultation period no public submissions were received.

**DETAILS:**

The City receives several enquiries and requests for the placement of plaques and memorials on City owned or maintained land each year. In order for the City to maintain local amenity, ensure the safety of the community and minimise maintenance requirements, this policy consists of guidelines and criteria to assist in regulating the volume of memorial structures placed within the City's Parks and Reserves.

Main Roads WA will approve memorials on State Roads in a similar way to that proposed in this draft policy. The City needs to have a documented approach to roadside memorials to ensure a level of consistency across the network.

Administration proposed the following changes to the policy:

- Include confirmation that costs associated with replacement of lost or vandalised plaques would remain the responsibility of the applicant being clause 1.2(ix);
- Exclusion of memorial trees being identified by a plaque or other identification to maintain and enhance the City's public places and reserves, and for the safety of all users of the space being clause 1.2(v);
- Not permitting plaques where there is a religious or political affiliation being clause 1.2(vii);
- Not permitting plaques if in the opinion of the City the plaque is offensive or has the potential to offend being clause 1.2(viii);
- Removing the necessity to report to Council for every memorial request in clause 2(i) as this administratively burdensome and unnecessary, except where there is a disagreement on the City's response. In these instances Council would have final approval, as clause 1.2(i) of the amended policy;
- Distinguishing between City owned roads and roads under the control of Main Roads, and advising that all applications must be made to Main Roads should a person wish to erect a memorial on a Main Roads controlled road in clause 1.3.3; and

- Not allowing the scattering of ashes in public places and reserves given the availability of specialised facilities operated by the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board being clause 1.4.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council 16 November 2021 council approved the proposed amendments for the purpose of public notice with the following changes:

#### DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES:

- (a) Persons wishing to distribute the ashes of a deceased person on a public park or reserve may make application to the Chief Executive Officer for approval.
- (b) The Chief Executive Officer shall consider each application on its merits.
- (c) Where approval is granted, the ashes are to be distributed at a time and in a manner which causes minimal attention or disruption.

The above changes were made to draft policy which was then advertised for public comment on 7 December 2021 until 7 January 2022.

At conclusion of the consultation period no comments were received.

#### CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

No further consultation is required.

#### LEGAL/POLICY:

Section 2.7(2)(b) of the Act provides Council with the power to determine policies.

The City's [Policy Development and Review Policy](#) sets out the process for repealing and adopting policies.

#### RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

**Low:** Adopting the proposed policy is low risk

#### STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the City's *Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028*:

##### Enhanced Environment

*Our parks and reserves are maintained, enhanced and well utilised.*

#### SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the following key sustainability outcomes of the *City's Sustainable Environment Strategy 2019-2024*.

This does not contribute to any specific sustainability outcomes of the *City's Sustainable Environment Strategy 2019-2024*, however the ability to opt for a commemorative tree to be planted within a City owned or managed reserve assists in greening and tree canopy increase.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the following priority health outcomes of the City's *Public Health Plan 2020-2025*:

*Increased mental health and wellbeing*

**FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

There is negligible financial impact to the City. All associated costs of memorials shall be covered by the applicant.

**COMMENTS:**

That Council adopts the amended Memorials in Public Spaces and Reserves Policy as shown in **Attachment 1**