

Commemorative Works and Memorials Policy Review 2025 – Summary of Proposed Changes

Key changes made to the Policy are summarised below.

Type	Description	Reason
Amendment	Background removed	In line with updated Policy template.
Amendment	Section 1.2: The policy now explicitly excludes naming, roadside memorials commemorating victims of a road fatality, cemetery burials or dispersal of cremation ashes, public artworks, heritage and interpretation works, and First Nations cultural projects, signage, display boards, banners, and flags.	Amendment clarifies that the policy does not cover the naming of roads, parks, facilities, or certain memorial items, ensuring the scope is clearly defined.
Amendment	Section 2: The purpose of the policy is to establish a consistent framework for evaluating and approving the placement of memorials, setting clear criteria for assessing applications from individuals, groups, and organisations	To provide a clear and consistent process for assessing and approving memorial placements, ensuring all applications are evaluated against established criteria.
Amendment	Section 3.1: Memorials must reflect the evolving values, ideas, and aspirations of the Parramatta community and have cultural significance.	This amendment ensures that memorials are aligned with the contemporary values, ideas, and cultural significance of the City of Parramatta community.
Amendment	Section 3.2: They should recognise significant achievements, services, and contributions valued by the City of Parramatta and its people.	This change clarifies that the policy should honour important achievements, services, and contributions valued by the City of Parramatta community.
Amendment and New Inclusion	Section 3.3 and 3.4: Demonstrate broad community awareness and support, including Council may undertake community engagement for proposed memorials.	This amendment ensures public support and understanding, strengthening community ownership and transparency in decision making.

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Amendment	Section 3.6: Memorials must be sympathetic with the cultural landscape and have minimal impact on natural values and visual.	To ensure that new memorials are thoughtfully integrated into their surroundings, preserving the natural environment and maintaining the visual character of the area.
New Inclusion	Section 3.7: Council will consider the needs of all public space users and future developments when considering the memorial's location.	This ensures fair access, flexibility for future projects, and balanced use of public spaces for everyone.
New Inclusion	Section 3.9: Memorials commemorating the animals are not permitted	This provision directly reinforces that memorials commemorating the death of pets and animals.
New Inclusion	Section 3.11: Commemorative works or memorials recording the names of persons convicted of an indictable offense will be removed where practicable.	This provision has been introduced to ensure that the policy upholds community values and maintains the integrity of commemorative spaces. This helps foster public trust and respect for memorial sites.
New Inclusion	Section 3.12: Pre-existing memorials before the policy commencement may remain.	This amendment preserves existing memorials to respect their significance while ensuring new installations follow current policy.
Amendment	Section 3.13: The City of Parramatta does not guarantee the permanent retention of any memorial, plaque, or memorial infrastructure that lacks heritage value.	The City of Parramatta may remove any non-heritage memorial, plaque, or infrastructure as needed for park upgrades or essential works.
New Inclusion	Section 3.14: Council will handle standard maintenance but not the replacement of vandalised or stolen memorials	To remove ambiguity to maintenance of memorials, and replacement of any that are vandalised or stolen. This approach helps keep public spaces safe and meaningful, focusing on protecting important sites while managing practical upkeep.

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New Inclusion	Section 3.15 and 3.17: Should an applicant not meet the requirements, unmarked trees and plantings may be considered as alternative living memorials, subject to Council approval.	To allow flexible commemorative options through living memorials without markers, while preserving Council's discretion to permit plaques in the community interest.
New Inclusion	Section 3.19: Full payment is required after application approval and must be received before ordering any commemorative works or memorials.	Ensures financial commitment is secured before proceeding with production, avoiding delays or costs associated with changes or cancellations.
New Inclusion	Delegation added	To ensure that approvals are in line with Council approved Delegations.
Amendment	Definitions: Update to definition The policy now includes new and updated definitions to ensure clarity and consistency in its application. By introducing precise terminology, the City of Parramatta aims to remove any uncertainty regarding the interpretation of key terms used throughout the policy.	To remove ambiguity to support the implementation of the Policy.
Amendment	History Removed	In line with updated Policy template.
Amendment	References, Associated Polices and Attachments updated as per current Draft policy.	This update ensures all supporting documents and references remain consistent with the latest policy framework, helping to maintain accuracy, compliance, and clarity for users referring to the policy.