

1. Policy intent

The aim of this Policy is to provide a framework for Council to document, monitor and maintain existing public artworks and memorials, as well as foster the development of appropriate new works for the enrichment of community life within the Tablelands Regional Council (TRC) local government area, for both residents and visitors.

2. Scope

This Policy is designed to assist TRC over the next 3 years to make decisions regarding the human and financial resources required to support community aspirations in asset maintenance/conservation and management of existing artworks, the commissioning of new works and the de-accessioning of existing works.

This Policy applies to temporary and permanent works of art, including:

- artwork commissioned by Council as part of capital works projects
- community driven projects on Council owned or controlled land
- offers to donate artworks
- existing public art
- memorials, plaques and monuments (together referred to as memorials, but excluding cemetery plaques).

3. Background/supporting information

The TRC Public Art Register currently includes more than 80 public artworks, both historical and contemporary, and over 50 memorials. In addition, there is an extensive range of over 115 plaques at the Rocky Creek War Memorial Park.

3.1 TRC Cultural Plan 2018-2021

This Policy aligns with goals set out in the TRC Cultural Plan 2018-2021 and the legal parameters of the *Local Government Act 2009 and Local Government Regulations 2012*

Goal Two: Celebrate Our Distinct Identity

2.4 Maintain, audit and continually document existing public art works and monuments. Provide information to include on TRC's Arts and Culture Map website.

2.5 Promote the public art policy for the commissioning and care of public art assets within the TRC area, that reflects and celebrates local identity and difference across the Tablelands

3.2 The Role Of Public Art In The Community

Public art is more than just artwork to look at in public spaces. It can:

- foster positive community identity and wellbeing
- enhance the sense of public ownership and civic pride in public spaces
- provide access and equity for the community to experience art
- express cultural diversity
- encourage physical activity
- be inter-generational
- add community and historical depth to specific environments
- provide meeting places and focal points for community
- encourage connections and opportunities for community engagement
- alter peoples' expectations of, or reception to, specific environments
- increase the value of assets
- promote tourism visitation and provide alternative economic development outcomes
- provide employment for, and recognition of, artists, designers and fabricators.

4. Policy Statement

4.1 Purpose

TRC recognises the importance of public art in creating vibrant and attractive places across the Tablelands region, and is committed to the incorporation of innovative, stimulating and relevant public art that enhances public spaces, is physically appropriate and enriches the character and identity of local communities.

The purpose of this Public Art Policy is to:

- engage artists in civic dialogue with the community to develop ideas for responsive artworks integrated into a variety of public settings
- achieve a standard of professional excellence in the planning and execution of all public art projects to a recognised high standard and integrated into Council plans
- develop and document a relevant, diverse and exciting collection of public art which celebrates local identity and essence of place
- ensure appropriate procedures and guidelines are in place for the planning, acquisition and promotion of new artworks; ongoing management of existing public art and memorials, and for de-accessioning processes when required.

4.2 Guiding Principles

The following principles underpin TRC's commitment to the provision of a vibrant, diverse and sustainable public art collection:

Community

Public art, as a distinct expression and reflection of the community in which it belongs in this time and place, will always involve the community. Enabling community involvement in decision-making regarding proposed sites and selection or creation of art works is important to ensure public art is culturally appropriate, fosters community ownership and contributes to the unique character and identity of local communities.

Relevance

Public art may sometimes contribute to, but is not a solution to, existing architectural or urban design difficulties. It seeks to be interpretive of its immediate environment and local characteristics and should be an intelligent and/or expressive response to the space in which it operates. The work should resonate in the space or place and provide a catalyst for future creative activity and contemplation.

Significance

Recognition of the value of public art in enabling social, historical and cultural expression, and in contributing to the social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing of the Tablelands region; ensuring the subject or theme of any proposed memorial demonstrates significance in relation to the specific site chosen, is sensitive to the local environment and reflects the values of the communities of interest.

Collaboration

Promoting cooperative planning, development and support for the creation of public art works, both temporary and permanent.

Integration

Integrating arts and cultural considerations into TRC's decision-making and planning processes regarding capital works projects.

Economy

The public art program will prioritise local artists, providing employment opportunities and building the capacity of the region's arts industry. A cohesive and innovative collection of public art projects has the potential to act as a tourism attraction, drawing visitors to the region, and contributing as an economic driver for the local economy.

4.3 Ownership

TRC will become the owner of all commissioned and donated artworks and memorials located on Council property by entering into a contract under which legal ownership is assigned from the artist to TRC. Copyright will remain vested in the artist unless otherwise specified in the contract. This contract will also address TRC's rights and responsibilities for creating promotional material of the work for non-commercial use, and for repair, maintenance, relocation or de-accessioning of the public art.

Under the *Copyright Act 1968*, and the *Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Act 2000*, moral rights protect the relationship between a creator and their work, even if the creator no longer owns the work, or the copyright in the work. Moral rights concern the creator's right to be properly attributed or credited, and the protection of their work from derogatory treatment. TRC will respect such moral rights and ensure appropriate consultation is undertaken in respect of all public art and memorials.

5. Responsibility

Council is responsible for the adoption, amendment and repeal of the Policy and the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate) is responsible for the development and amendment of any associated procedures and guidelines relevant to the Policy.

6. Review

It is the responsibility of the Regional Arts Officer to monitor the adequacy of this policy and recommend appropriate changes. This policy will be formally reviewed every three years or as required by Council.

This Policy is to remain in force until otherwise amended/repealed by resolution of Council.