

Roadside Fatality Memorials

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Authority:	Council	Responsible Officer:	Asset Planning Team Leader
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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set guidelines for the placement of roadside fatality memorials on local roads within the City of Greater Dandenong. Control on the placement of memorials on roadsides under the jurisdiction of road authorities other than the City of Greater Dandenong remains vested with the respective road authorities.

2. Background

The City of Greater Dandenong recognises that some members of the community wish to mark the location of, or commemorate a fatal crash on the local road network by the placement of a temporary roadside memorial.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all temporary roadside memorials erected on roads managed by the City of Greater Dandenong.

4. Human Rights and Responsibilities Charter – Compatibility Statement

All matters relevant to the Victorian Human Rights Charter have been considered in the preparation of this Policy and are consistent with the standards set by the Charter.

5. References

Council Plan 2013-2017

Vic Roads – Roadside Fatality Memorials Policy

Road Management Act 2004

Local Government Act 1989

Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006

6. Definitions

A roadside memorial is any object temporarily erected or placed within the road reserve to commemorate/indicate a road fatality. Memorials may include items such as flowers, wreaths, toys or any type of temporary inscriptions.

7. Council Policy

Policy Statement

Council will deal sensitively with requests for the placement of temporary roadside memorials on local roads.

Objectives

This policy will assist grieving members of the community affected by roadside fatalities at a time when emotions sometimes do not allow for clear thinking on these matters. This would enable workers in the field of road trauma to immediately identify relevant protocols, allowing families and loved ones to respond appropriately in the placement of a roadside memorial.

Detailed Requirements and Performance

In dealing with requests, the following criteria will be considered:

Location

1. A memorial should be located in a position where it will not distract drivers' attention from the driver task or interfere with the role of any traffic control item.
2. A memorial should be located in a position where it will not be hazardous to passing traffic, pedestrians or prevent appropriate maintenance of the road reserve. VicRoads' Clear Zone Guidelines (Road Design Guidelines Part 3, Section 3.9 Clear Zones) should be used to assess this.
3. Applicants should be made aware of any possible risks in visiting roadside memorials and should be advised on safe practices in this regard eg. Stopping clear of traffic.
4. Wherever possible, the location should be chosen to minimise risk.

Construction

1. A memorial must be constructed of material or installed in a way that will not interfere with road users or cause injury if struck by a vehicle or pedestrians and shall be of a temporary nature only.
2. Only one memorial is to be placed at a fatal crash site to commemorate the loss of a loved one/s

Other

1. Any objection or complaint from nearby residents or from road users regarding any aspects of memorials, including the activity of visitors to the memorial, should be carefully considered and if necessary the memorial should be relocated or removed.
2. Applicants should be advised that the City of Greater Dandenong is not able to accept responsibility for the maintenance of memorials, any loss, damage, removal or relocation of roadside memorials that may occur due to road maintenance or construction activities.
3. In general, a time limit of one month will be allowed for memorials to be placed within road reserves. Council reserves the right to remove and dispose of such temporary memorials at any time following a period of one month after the initial placement without prior warning to the applicant.
4. Arrangements for the placement of temporary memorials shall be made with Council in accordance with the policy guidelines.



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5. In special circumstances a request to extend the time limit of one month may be sort.

Exceptions

The implementation of this policy within the City of Greater Dandenong is affected by VicRoads' Roadside Fatality Memorials policy that allows permanent memorials to be established on roads under the jurisdiction of VicRoads.

8. Related Documents

This policy should be read and implemented in conjunction with the provisions of the:

- Code of Practice for Worksite safety-Traffic Management December 2004, and
- VicRoads Clear Zone Guidelines.