

FILE NO: PSC2014-02649

TITLE: PUBLIC ART POLICY

OWNER: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION MANAGER

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 Port Stephens Council is committed to increasing the wellbeing and liveability of the Port Stephens community. Creating better spaces and better places that celebrate creativity and culture is part of this commitment.
- 1.2 The Public Art Policy and related Public Art Guidelines provides Council with a framework to approve or commission public art projects in the public domain.
- 1.3 The policy details a best practice approach to manage public art procurement and management to maximise the social and economic benefits and create high quality public spaces.

2. CONTEXT/BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 Public art is an integral factor in enhancing the physical, social and economic environment of Port Stephens. Public art has the potential to transform our places, create new experiences and celebrate our community identity.
- 2.2 A consistent approach to the management of public art provides clear processes to assist Council and the community develop high quality and place appropriate public art projects for the region.

3. SCOPE:

- 3.1 This policy applies to all and any public art projects located, or proposed, in the public domain.
- 3.2 The policy refers to the placement, procurement, approval and management of art works (temporary or permanent) that compliments urban design.
- 3.3 This policy relates to all Councillors and Council officers who are engaged in the process of approving public art, either through commission, direct purchase, donation or grant or sponsorship funding.
- 3.4 The supporting Public Art Guidelines is to be used to guide a best practice approach to public art.

3.5 The policy applies to:

- a) Council-initiated public art projects
- b) Public art purchases
- c) Public art projects initiated by other Government agencies, private property developers, artists or the community
- d) Public art received as gifts, donations and bequests
- e) Existing public art in the public domain
- f) Development of Council's plans and strategies that relate to the public realm, including developer contributions and master planning, that provide opportunities to incorporate public art principles.

3.6 Council's Development Control Plan also provides for inclusion of public art into commercial and mixed-use development as part of the development consent process, depending on the scale of works proposed.

3.7 This policy does not apply to works that are solely commemorative in nature such as memorials or plaques. Such projects and proposals are considered in line with Council's Parks and Roadside Memorials Policy.

4. DEFINITIONS:

4.1 An outline of the key definitions of terms included in the policy.

Public Art	Artworks and one-off designs created for, or located in, a public space or visible to the public and readily accessible to members of the public. The work may be of a temporary or permanent nature.
Commission	A commission is a direct request to produce a piece of art specifically for Council's public art collection. A public art commission by Council is a contracted transaction.
Decommission	Decommissioning is the term used for permanent removal of a work of art from a public art installation or collection.
Public Domain	Public places and/or open spaces that are situated within, vested in or managed by Council. This includes parks, beaches, outdoor recreation facilities, streets, laneways, pathways and foreshore areas and public buildings, facilities or enclosed structures, owned and managed by Council that are physically accessible to the general public.

5. STATEMENT:

5.1 The key objectives of this policy are to:

- a) Establish a consistent process for the commissioning, approval and decommissioning of public art.
- b) Enhance the natural and built assets of Port Stephens by enlivening and enriching public spaces.
- c) Create a sense of identity about Port Stephens heritage, culture and lifestyle.
- d) Facilitate the integration of public art into relevant facilities and infrastructure projects.
- e) Develop and enhance opportunities and promotion of local artists.
- f) Provide a policy foundation to Council's Development Control Plan for the inclusion of public art into commercial and mixed-use development.

5.2 It is expected that the implementation of this policy will lead to:

- a) The planning of public art in Council's urban designs to improve the quality of community spaces, the public domain and to enhance the pedestrian streetscape experience.
- b) Identification of sites/zones for future public art works, appropriate asset management, including safety and maintenance.
- c) Effective community engagement and consultation to ensure the art work will have meaning and relevance to the site in which it is located.

5.3 Council officers responsible for the commissioning, procurement placement or approval of public art should refer to the Public Art Guidelines. The guidelines provide a process through which Council can address public art procurement and planning, evaluation, appropriate asset management, decommissioning, safety and maintenance. The guidelines are intended to assist artists, community groups, Council staff, elected members and private developers in the provision of public art projects in Port Stephens that is consistent with the objectives of this policy.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES:

6.1 The Vibrant Places Unit manages, and provides technical advice and reports on public art as part of the cultural development program. It is the responsibility of other units across Council to ensure they implement the policy and adhere to the Public Art Guidelines.

6.2 Approval of public art proposals are granted by internal staff, Strategic Arts Committee or Aboriginal Strategic Committee dependent on the nature and intent of the project. These are in accordance with the public art guidelines.

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS:

- 7.1 Our Incredible Place Strategy 2021-2024
- 7.2 Port Stephens Development Control Plan 2014
- 7.3 Asset Management Policy
- 7.4 Public Art Guidelines

CONTROLLED DOCUMENT INFORMATION:

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EDRMS container No.	PSC2014-02649	EDRMS record No.	24/102392
Audience	Councillors, Council staff, community		
Process owner	Communications Section Manager		
Author	Senior Community Development Officer		
Review timeframe	3 years	Next review date	12 March 2027
Adoption date	10 November 2015		

VERSION HISTORY:

Version	Date	Author	Details	Minute No.
1	10 November 2015	Communications Section Manager	Original policy and guidelines endorsed for public exhibition by Council at its 10 November 2015 meeting. No submissions received, therefore Policy and guidelines adopted by Council.	340
2	27 March 2018	Communications Section Manager	Public Art Guidelines section 6.0 updated to include mention of required approval relating to private developer public art contributions in the development assessment process. The value of capital investment for commercial development was changed from \$1 million to	061

			\$2 million in line with the Port Stephens Development Control Plan. Inclusion of Guidelines for the approval and installation of Public Art in Port Stephens in related documents section.	
3	8 December 2020	Communications Section Manager	- added 'This policy applies to all and any public art projects located, or proposed, in the public domain'. - deleted: 'Public Art' added: an 's' to refer added: 'approval'. - added 'This policy relates to all Councillors and Council officers who are engaged in the process of approving public art, either through commission, direct purchase or donation.' - added 'The supporting Public Art Guidelines is to be used to guide a best practice approach to public art.' - deleted 'Public art can be integrated into, but not limited to: deleted: a) New developments proposed by commercial developers. b) Existing areas as part of a master plan or upgrade being developed by Council. - added: c) Council-initiated public art projects. d) Public art purchases. e) Public art projects initiated by other Government agencies, private property developers, artists or the community. f) Public art received as gifts, donations and bequests.	

			g) Existing public art in the public domain. deleted: Proposals submitted by community groups and or individual artists, for both permanent works and temporary display as part of a festival. added: i) Development of Council's plans and strategies that relate to the public realm, including developer contributions and master planning, that provide opportunities to incorporate public art principles. 3.7 - added 'This policy does not apply to works that are solely commemorative in nature such as memorials or plaques. Such projects and proposals are considered in line with Council's Parks and Roadside Memorials Policy.' 4.1 - added in Public Art definition: The work may be of a temporary or permanent nature. Added 'or visible from' added 'Commission' definition. added 'Decommission' definition. added: 'Public Domain' definition. 5.1 a) added 'Establish a consistent process for the commissioning, approval and decommissioning of public art'. 5.1 b) added 'and enriching'. 5.3 - added 'Council officers responsible for the commissioning, procurement and placement of public art should refer to the Public Art Guidelines'.	
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			deleted 'accompanying' added 'evaluation' deleted: 'including identifying sites/zones for appropriate future public art works'. added 'decommissioning and' deleted 'including' 6.1 - added 'provides technical advice' 'the' and 'program'. 7.1 - deleted: ' Cultural Plan 2015-2018'. added 'Our Incredible Place: Events, Arts and Cultural Strategy 2020'. 7.3 – deleted 'Port Stephens Section 94 Contributions Plan'. a) 7.6 - added: 'Public Art' deleted: 'for the approval and installation of public art in Port Stephens.'	
4	12 March 2024	Communications Section Manager	3.2 – added 'that' and 'liments' Deleted: 'and' and 'ementing' 3.3 – added: 'or grant or sponsorship funding' 5.3 – deleted 'are' and 'and' Added: 'or approval' and 'The guidelines are intended to assist artists, community groups, Council staff, Councillors and private developers in the provision of public art projects in Port Stephens that is consistent with the objectives of this policy' 6.1 – deleted 'Community Development and Engagement unit' Added: 'Vibrant Places Unit'	010

			6.2 – added: ‘Approval of public art proposals are granted by relevant internal staff, Strategic Arts Committee or Aboriginal Strategic Committee dependant on the nature and intent of the project. These approvals are in accordance with the public art guidelines’ 7.1 – added ‘2021 – 2024’ Author – deleted Community Development and Engagement Coordinator’ Added ‘Senior Community Development Officer’ Next Review Date – deleted ‘November 2023’ Added ‘February 2027’	
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