

Guidelines for the installation of roadside memorials

Background

Moreton Bay Regional Council recognises that some members of the community wish to mark the location of and commemorate members of their family or friends that have lost their lives on the road network by the placement of a temporary roadside memorial.

Scope

All roadside memorials on council roads will need to comply with these guidelines and are considered on a temporary basis only. Roadside memorials will be removed after 25 months and will be stored by council for a further period of 6 months to allow the registered owners of the memorial to collect the materials from a council depot.

Roadside memorials

Council is able to provide assistance to family and friends by helping everyone understand the requirements to install a memorial at a safe location adjacent to a council managed road.

These guidelines have been developed to ensure that memorials are placed in a safe location for family and friends; can be easily maintained; not cause issues for adjacent property owners and will cause minimum distraction or hazard to other road users.

Description of roadside memorial

A roadside memorial is a physical object denoting a memory of a person(s) killed on or near a road.

Council respects that affected family members and friends that wish to erect a temporary memorial come from diverse religious denominations or may hold no religious beliefs. The memorial can contain words or discrete symbols and is commonly a cross to denote members of the Christian religion. If a cross is not deemed suitable, please contact Council to discuss alternative options. Council may consider other memorials on a case-by-case basis. The memorial should be no larger than the dimensions outlined below.

A name and date may be recorded on the memorial. Floral tributes should not exceed a 2m square area and Council reserves the right to remove excess floral tributes if deemed a safety issue or receives justifiable complaints from the general public. Memorials must not distract motorists and are to be small in scale. Items including but not limited to reflectorised stickers, glass, soft toys, plants, containers, concrete bricks and solar lights are not permitted. Landscaping of the memorial with permanent or semi-permanent fixtures is not permitted.

Roadside memorial dimensions

These guidelines will assist with the installation of a memorial. To ensure everyone's ongoing safety, it is essential that a memorial does not interfere with traffic or create a hazard by distracting drivers.

A roadside memorial should be structurally stable and fall within the following dimensions:

- height 750mm
- width 400mm
- depth 400mm (below ground level).
- Thickness 20mm
- Painted white and non- reflective

Memorials shall be located:

- No closer than 3 metres from the edge of any bitumen/road seal;
- No closer than 1 metre from behind the line of guideposts; and
- No closer than 1 metre from the edge of any shared path.

Memorials shall not be located:

- Where they may interfere with the role of any traffic control item;
- In close proximity to residential dwellings where they may cause concern to the occupants or interfere with their private property

Memorabilia and personalisation

Council understands that personalising a memorial may provide comfort to families and friends of people who have lost their lives on the road. In the interest of preserving safety for all where possible, memorabilia should not exceed the dimensions outlined in the memorial requirements, the reason being that such items may be a visual distraction to road users. Physical objects could harm road users and the possible movement of personal items onto the road could be a potential road safety hazard. Only one (1) roadside memorial shall be allowed per life lost.

Placement of a roadside memorial

In the interest of the safety of persons installing memorials and the safety of other road users, there are a number of locations where the placement of memorials is restricted. Examples of locations where memorials are not permitted include:

- traffic islands (including medians and roundabouts)
- where they may interfere with any traffic control devices (e.g. traffic signs or signals)

The placement of a roadside memorial must not interfere with:

- roadside maintenance (e.g. mowing or utility works)
- the safe movement of all road users including pedestrians, cyclists and motor vehicles
- adjacent residents
- underground services

Location of a memorial should not unreasonably detract from the amenity of the local area or detract from the reasonable quality of life as expected by adjacent landowners or property occupiers and other members of the public.

Memorials must be placed in a safe location. If council deems that a memorial has been installed in an unsafe location or determines that the memorial location or conduct of visitors to the memorial is causing unnecessary distress to landowners, council may remove or ask for the memorial to be removed or relocated.

Removal of temporary memorials is at the discretion of Council in order to maintain public safety or amenity of local roads. Any request to remove a memorial will be assessed against these guidelines.

Installation of roadside memorials

All temporary roadside memorials must be registered with Council providing a contact name, address and phone number of a family member or friend that is responsible for the memorial. This person may be contacted by Council in the event the memorial has to be removed or adjusted to meet these Guidelines.

A council representative can assist in the placement of approved temporary roadside memorials. The council officer will ensure its placement is in accordance with Council standards and requirements and most importantly take into consideration the safety of road users. Council officers will consider safety issues such as where the road geometry is less than optimum i.e. road crests, bends and high-speed locations.

To register your memorial or if there are any doubts as to the appropriateness of a safe location, please contact council on 3205 0555.

Time frame

Erection of a memorial is to be temporary up to a maximum of 25 months from the date of installation of the memorial, after which time the memorial must be removed. Any appropriate remedial works to the site are required at the time of removal.

Roadside memorial maintenance

The maintenance of any memorial is the responsibility of family or friends.

It is important that all visitors exercise due care and attention (e.g. park legally, stand away from the road edge etc.) and behave responsibly so as not to endanger themselves or other road users when maintaining or visiting a memorial.

Relocation or removal of a roadside memorial

Every attempt will be made to consult those affected prior to the relocation or removal of any memorial.

There may be times when road works are required at the location of a memorial which may require temporary or permanent removal. If this occurs, council will carefully relocate the memorial for the duration of the works and then replace it, if possible. If the memorial obstructs the completed road works, it may be removed to a different location, following contact with those affected.

Any roadside memorial presenting a safety hazard or is deemed to be adversely affecting resident amenity will be removed without notice by council. Every effort will be made to contact the responsible person/s regarding the removal of the roadside memorial. If council is unsuccessful in contacting the appropriate person/s, any material removed shall be stored for a period of 3 months at an appropriate council depot. If a memorial becomes a road safety hazard, or falls into disrepair, relocation or removal will occur.

Existing memorials

Council will treat all existing roadside memorials in a sensitive manner and will address each one on an individual basis with the aim of making all roadside memorials compliant with this guideline.

Indemnity of public liability insurance

Those responsible for installing a roadside memorial will not be asked to arrange indemnity or public liability insurance.

Dispute resolution

All disputes in regard to this guideline will be referred to the Director Engineering Construction and Maintenance in the first instance. In the event that an agreement cannot be reached, the matter will be submitted to council for decision.

Memorials on State Government roads

Your nearest Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads office should be contacted for information about roadside memorials on state controlled road network. Council officers are able to advise if a road is state controlled.

For any further advice regarding roadside memorials, please contact council on 07 3205 0555.