

# Public Art Policy

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Recognise Council’s strategic directions and be able to work in a collaborative and integrated approach across Council, the arts and wider community
- Guide place making initiatives and how they have be achieved through public art
- Guide the wider community and key stakeholders on managing and funding public art programs including acquisition and decommissioning processes
- Guide the curation and management of Council’s public art collection
- Identify the ways in which public art will be implemented in the public realm, as part of community infrastructure developments and as part of any development contributions plan
- Compliment and build on the unique qualities of the various streetscapes and town/village centres
- Guide the wider community and key stakeholders on managing public art programs in the public domain

## Scope

This policy applies to Council programs that are concerned with the built and natural environment, including capital works, urban design and infrastructure development. The policy applies to public artworks that are located in:

- Site-specific curated projects, including exhibitions and projects involving lighting, landmarks memorials and/or the natural environment
- Community cultural development projects
- Urban design, landscape design or streetscape improvement projects
- Developments on public land or on private areas that are visible from the public domain (e.g. commercial centres, public facilities, community centres, libraries, bridges and open space)
- In private developments as part of development contributions or voluntary planning agreements
- Temporary installations (e.g. events and festivals)

## Definitions

Term	Meaning
<b>Public Art</b>	Is art in public spaces that is visible and impacts on and forms part of the public domain.
<b>Characteristics</b>	<p>Public Art is creative and artistic work that is part of the public experience of the built and natural environment. It takes in a wide range of art forms and practice including, but not limited to, sculpture, environmental art, architectural design elements, installations, lighting effects, outdoor performances, monuments, memorials, artist designed street furniture, decorative paving and mural works.</p> <p>It always involves an artist and can be the result of artists’ commissions, artists working as part of architectural design teams, community arts and community cultural development processes, competitions, temporary exhibitions, events or installations. It can also include donation or purchase of existing artistic works.</p>

	It often reflects an area's history, environment, cultural context, local stories and unique identity and may include permanent or ephemeral artworks, functional design, large and small scale initiatives as well as high profile or low key approaches.
<b>Decommissioning</b>	Is the process by which public artwork is removed from its site and includes the documentation of its removal and it's de-registration as a Council asset.

## Policy Principles

Arts, culture and history play a significant role in social and cultural life and contribute to providing a sense of well-being in our community.

Public art can enhance public places, express civic pride, activate public spaces, express local identity, celebrate local creativity, tell local stories and create discussion.

Public art also provides an opportunity to create a distinctive character, enhance amenity, contribute to place making and can be an attraction in its own right.

This policy aims to facilitate the development of a high quality collection of distinctive public artworks that contribute towards creating a sense of place and celebration for communities in Yass Valley.

This policy provides a framework for planning and decision making in relation to public art. These processes include commissioning and acquisition and the associated processes of design, development, documentation management, community engagement, de-acquisition and maintenance.

The framework is needed to ensure that artworks are of high quality and that they are selected in a consistent, equitable and transparent manner.

Public Art will be encouraged and supported according to the following principles:

- **Recognition** - of the Ngunnawal people as the original custodians of Yass Valley
- **Transparency and Accountability** - the selection and evaluation process for public art will be transparent and accountable
- **Assessment Criteria** – the assessment of public artworks will be carried out using criteria that takes into account quality, aesthetics, and artist's reputation including demonstrated ability, skills and experience, value for money, community relevance, safety, maintenance and sustainability
- **Community Involvement** –the Public Art Focus Group will play a pivotal role in assisting Council in the acquisition of public artworks. Depending on the commission process, there will be opportunities for community involvement in the process of proposing, selecting and evaluating artworks and in the identification of themes and locations for public artworks. Some commissions will provide opportunities for the community to work with artists in the development and making of works. All the communities of Yass Valley have equal opportunity to enjoy the benefits of public art
- **Local and Regional Employment Opportunities** – Opportunities for local and regional artists and related industries to be involved in the design, development and manufacture of works will be encouraged and promoted
- **Cultural Tourism** – Public artworks that reflect local character, identity and culture and showcase our local artists, Yass Valley will be promoted as an attractive arts destination

## Responsibilities & Review

The review of this policy will take account of relevant legislation and State Government policies, best practice guidelines and Council plans and priorities.

This policy will be reviewed following each General Election of Council and the Director Planning & Environment is responsible for arranging the completion of the review.

## References

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following:

<b>Legislation</b>	<i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
	<i>Copyright (Moral Rights) Amendment Act 2000</i>
<b>Policies and procedures</b>	The Tablelands 2016-2036 Regional Community Strategic Plan
	Yass Valley Council 2017-2021 Delivery Program
	Yass Valley Council Operational Plan
	Assets of Sale Policy
	Gifts and Benefits Policy
	Public Art Guidelines
	Procurement Policy
	<i>Environmental Planning &amp; Assessment Act 1979</i>

## Approval History

Stage	Date	Comment	MagiQ Reference
Original	11 July 2012	Adopted by Council	Min 299
Review	23 October 2019	Adopted by Council	Min 245
Review	24 March 2022	Adopted by Council	Min

## Ownership and Approval

Responsibility	Role
Author	Director Planning & Environment
Owner	Director Planning & Environment
Endorser	EMT
Approver	Council