



**GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL
ROADSIDE FATALITY
MEMORIAL POLICY**

Effective: XX Month Year



ROADSIDE FATALITY MEMORIAL POLICY

Version:	2
Business Unit:	Infrastructure
Responsible Officer:	Manager Project Delivery and Assets
Adopted By:	Council on xx June 2026
Next Review:	xx June 2030

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set guidelines for the approval, construction installation and maintenance of roadside fatality memorials.

2. OBJECTIVE

The Greater Shepparton City Council (Council) recognises the sensitivity of the requests for establishment of roadside fatality memorials by the members of the community affected by a crash. The policy ensures that the memorials are appropriately placed and maintained to respect broader community values and those affected by death on our roads. The policy also aims to increase community-wellbeing, reduce roadside fatalities and optimise the use of available resources.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all affected community members seeking to establish a roadside fatality memorial, as well as to Council staff responsible for assessing and managing such requests. Each request will be evaluated on an individual basis. The Council discourages the unsanctioned placement of memorials and encourages community members to engage with the Council to ensure memorials are installed safely, respectfully, and in accordance with Council requirements.

4. DEFINITIONS

Reference term	Definition
Roadside Fatality Memorial	Any object constructed, erected or placed on the roadside within the road reserve to commemorate/indicate a road fatality.
Roadside	Any area excluding the carriageway of a road reserve under the control of Council

5. POLICY

A Roadside Fatality Memorial may include items such as wooden crosses, coloured posts, flowers or any type of construction with or without plaques or inscriptions.

Council recognises that some members of the community wish to mark the location of a fatal crash on the road network by the establishment of a roadside fatality memorial.

Council will deal sensitively with requests for the establishment of roadside fatality memorials however will not encourage their placement.

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

Location

- A memorial must 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.
- A memorial must be located in a position where it will not be hazardous to passing traffic or prevent appropriate maintenance of the road reserve. VicRoads' Clear Zone Guidelines contained within the VicRoads Supplement to the Austroads Guide to Road Design, Part 6 – Roadside Design, Safety & Barriers will be included in the assessment criteria.
- Applicants must be made aware of possible risks in visiting roadside memorials and should be advised on safe practices in this regard e.g. stopping clear of traffic.
- Evaluation of any request for erection of a memorial may include consultation with the neighbouring landholder.
- The location must be chosen to minimise risk.

Construction

- The applicant must provide Council with details of the proposed memorial.
- A memorial must be constructed of material or installed in a way that will not cause injury if struck by a vehicle. Where a long-lasting memorial is required which incorporates a plaque, it must be placed horizontally as close to the surface level as possible.

Other

- The applicant must obtain a consent for works in a road reserve from the Council.
- 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. If necessary Council may direct that the memorial be relocated or removed.

- The applicant must maintain the approved memorial in a neat and tidy condition and failure to do so may result in removal.
- Applicants must be advised that Council will not accept responsibility for the maintenance of memorials, or any loss, damage, removal or relocation of roadside memorials that may occur due to road maintenance or construction activities.
- In general a time limit of twelve months will be allowed for memorials of a temporary nature.
- Arrangements for the placement of permanent memorials must be made to the Responsible Officer in accordance with the policy guidelines.
- The memorial marker's contact details are encouraged to be included on the memorial for contact purposes.
- Roadside memorials are to be non-hazardous to road users and be placed in a location that enables people to visit safely.
- Any roadside memorial presenting a safety hazard may be modified, relocated or removed without notice; however, Council will endeavour to contact the memorial maker.

To support affected parties confronted with tragedy on our roads, the following support services are available:

Transport Accident Commission

Ph: 1300 654 329

<https://www.tac.vic.gov.au>

Road Trauma Support Services Victoria

Ph: 1300 367 797

<https://www.rtssv.org.au/counselling-and-support>

Road Trauma Families Victoria

<https://rtfv.org.au/>

Lifeline

For 24/7 crisis support call Lifeline 13 11 14

Council will maintain a schedule of approved memorials together with the contact details of the applicant. The applicant will be held accountable for the ongoing maintenance of the memorial and advising Council of any changes to the responsible person.

6. RELATED POLICIES

- VicRoads' Roadside Memorial Policy 2015
- Greater Shepparton City Council Road Management Plan
- Greater Shepparton City Council Roadside Fatality Memorial Operational Policy
- Austroads Road Design Guidelines Part 3, Section 3.9 Clear Zones
- Supplement to the Austroads Guide to Road Design, Part 6 – Roadside Design, Safety & Barriers

7. RELATED LEGISLATION

- Road Management Act 2004
- Victoria's Road Safety Road Rules 2009

8. REVIEW

This policy is to be reviewed by the responsible officer no later than four years from the date of adoption or within six months after the general election.

DOCUMENT REVISIONS

Version #	Date Adopted	Date Effective
1	17 December 2013	17 December 2013
2	Xx June 2026	Xx June 2026