



# PUBLIC ART POLICY

**Approval Date:** 12 August 2015  
**Responsible Officer:** Director Community Services

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## **Policy Purpose**

The Public Art Policy aims to ensure that Public Art contributes to social and built environments and increases the attractiveness of Coonamble Shire as a place to live, work and visit.

## **Policy Statement**

Coonamble Shire Council supports the notion that visually attractive towns stimulate a sense of community pride and belonging. In addition, appropriate Public Art provides social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits to the community.

Through this Public Art Policy the Coonamble Shire Council recognises the value and significance of arts and culture to the community. This Public Art Policy acknowledges the importance of Public Art and the need for Council to maximise the interpretation, promotion and celebration of Coonamble Shire's cultural heritage, creative expression and built and natural environment.

## **Scope**

This policy applies to employees and contractors of Coonamble Shire Council. This policy applies to all Public Art projects proposed, initiated, implemented and/or managed by Coonamble Shire Council.

## **Definition**

For the purpose of this policy Public Art is a concept or work created by an artist or artists in any medium which is located in a public place or space owned or administered by Coonamble Shire Council.

Public places and spaces include Council owned or operated public access buildings held for civic, cultural or recreational purposes, Council owned or maintained open spaces, streets, pathways and parks.

Public Art intends to convey creative expression and is widely understood to encompass many forms, materials, processes, expected lifetimes and intended goals. Public Art may be permanent, temporary or integrated with the built or natural environment.

## **Guiding principles**

Council will consider the installation of Public Art based on the following:

### **Excellence in project initiation, concept, design and fabrication**

Public Art will reflect excellence in concept development, design and fabrication, ensuring a relevant, cohesive and contemporary Public Art collection in the Shire. Public Art must also be designed and fabricated in a way to ensure physical suitability and characteristic relevance to the space, as well as being safe and sustainable over the life of its installation. The costs of maintenance over a 10 year period will be assessed, along with the estimated life span of the project.

### **Transparent decision making process**

The identification, commission and assessment of all Public Art will be through transparent, equitable and inclusive processes. Council will consult with internal and external key stakeholders. On projects of significance Council may convene a Public Art Advisory Panel (PAAP) to evaluate and assess Public Art proposals against the prescribed criteria of a project brief (in the case of commissions) or the guiding principles of the Public Art Policy (in the case of unsolicited submissions). Recommendations and endorsements for the implementation of Public Art projects will be submitted to Council by the PAAP. Final approved of any Public Art projects will be made by the Coonamble Shire Council.

### **Relationship to space**

Planning for Public Art projects will take into account the context of a place to ensure artworks reflect and contribute to the unique character and identity of local communities. Regard will be given to the anticipated response of the public.

### **Meaningful community engagement**

Council will engage with relevant stakeholders to inform Public Art projects, including the identification of sites and suitable forms of Public Art. Meaningful and relevant community engagement on particular projects will help to ensure Public Art is culturally appropriate and fosters community ownership. Community engagement undertaken will be in line with council's Community Consultation Policy.

### **Contribution to the local economy**

Public Art in Coonamble Shire has the potential to contribute to the local economy through improving cultural tourism, community wellbeing and pride, increase innovation in future planning and design, deliver growth in creative industries (design, cultural manufacturing etc), and/or enhance regeneration invigoration of local industry and/or production.

Council's Public Art program will prioritise local artists, providing employment opportunities and building the capacity of the Shire's arts industry to become more viable and sustainable.

## Removing or relocating Public Art

Decisions for removal or relocation of Public Art projects will consider:

1. Objects that become dated or inappropriate to the community as a result of a majority change in community view.
2. Objects which have reached the end of their identified life (either maintenance or relevance).
3. Objects that are not safe to the public.
4. Objects for which adequate care and maintenance is not available.

In the process of decommission or relocating any permanent public artwork, Council will endeavour to contact the relevant stakeholders, including the artist should it be possible, detailing the reasons for the decommission or relocation. In regard to public artworks that resulted from community art projects, all efforts will be made to consult with the person who co-ordinated the project. If it is considered that an artwork of significant public interest is to be decommissioned a Public Notice will be issued by Council detailing the reasons for the decision.

### Policy Review History

Date	Changes Made	Approved By
May 2015	Policy developed	General Manager
June 2015	Draft presented to Council	Council 10/6/2015
June/July 2015	Public Exhibition	17/6/2015 – 17/7/2015
	Adopted by Council Min #1587	12 August 2015