

# Public Art Policy

<b>Date adopted</b>	24 November 2025
<b>Adopted by</b>	Council
<b>Review due</b>	October 2028
<b>Responsible officer</b>	Manager Library and Arts
<b>Records reference</b>	9208665

## 1. Purpose

This Public Art policy provides a framework for the development of public art in the City of Melton.

## 2. Application And Scope

This policy applies to public art:

- Directly commissioned, acquired or licenced by Council
- Community initiated on Council land, or funded via a Council grant
- Developer or privately initiated or recommended as part of a planning permit
- Proposed for an activity centre where there is an adopted structure or precinct plan
- Requiring occupation of Council land, roads or property (including pathways and laneways)
- Of community significance or Council interest (including through partnership)

The Public Art Policy does not apply to:

- Public art that is commissioned by an entity other than Council on private property
- Park furniture, equipment, or seating without an artist intention
- Landscaping, landscape furniture or equipment
- Public assets with a solely functional purpose
- A memorial or monument with a heritage or historical focus
- A heritage site or object of historical significance
- Management of graffiti incidents

## 3. General Provisions

Melton City Council acknowledges its role in commissioning and managing a public art collection that strengthens and promote the City's unique character and visitor attractions/experiences.

Public art encompasses a wide variety of creative expressions in the public realm. It includes works of art in any medium that has been planned and executed with the specific intention of being sited or staged in the physical public domain, usually outside and accessible to all.

Public art includes permanent artworks such as outdoor sculpture, artworks integrated into the design of public and open spaces, artworks integrated or affixed to the facades of buildings, and temporary artworks such as murals and installations. Public art may also include technology driven works such as lighting design, augmented reality and sound works.

### 3.1. Policy Objectives

Council's objectives for public art in the City of Melton are to:

- Enhance new and existing public spaces in our rapidly growing City
- Grow a public art collection that demonstrates strong contemporary arts practice
- Reflect stories and themes that are relevant to our residents
- Provide opportunities for place-making and community engagement.

### 3.2. Policy Principles

The Public Art Policy is underpinned by the following principles and intentions:

<b>Artistic intent</b>	Public art must include the conceptual contribution of a qualified artist to the design, either to an artwork and/or to the design of public spaces and facilities.
<b>Location</b>	Public Art can be located in or part of a public space or as part of a facility or precinct provided by the public or private sector.
<b>Permanent works</b>	Permanent public artwork is planned to remain in situ for several years. Where it is commissioned on new council-owned sites, it must be considered as part of civic infrastructure and urban design planning and incorporated into the earliest stages of planning.
<b>Temporary works</b>	Temporary public artworks provide opportunities for lower-cost temporary or semi-permanent installations that respond to current community themes.

### 3.3. Policy Implementation

Council's Public Art Guidelines provide procedural guidance for the acquisition, commissioning and maintenance of public art in the municipality.

#### 3.3.1. Public Art Criteria

Public Art in the City of Melton should demonstrate:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Evidence of quality arts practice</b>	The artist or artists have experience and skills to deliver strong public art outcomes.
<b>Suitability of the work to the site</b>	The proposal considers existing/planned urban design, public safety, public use, environmental and physical impact.
<b>Relevance of the work to local stories, themes or issues</b>	The proposed work is relevant to residents and/or includes plans for community engagement.
<b>Use of quality materials</b>	Selected materials are durable and can be maintained.
<b>Strategic relevance</b>	Alignment to the Council Wellbeing Plan, and consistency with current planning, heritage, environmental and social policies.

### **3.3.2. Public Art Review Panel**

A reference group made up of members of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee and Council Officers may be formed on a project-to-project basis to provide feedback on significant public art projects.

Recommendations will be noted at the subsequent meeting of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee.

### **3.3.3. Permanent Works Commissioned by Council**

Permanent public art commissioned by Melton City Council can occur at both existing and new public sites and facilities across the municipality. Permanent public artwork is planned to remain in situ for between 5-25 years. Where it is commissioned on new council-owned sites, it must be considered as part of civic infrastructure and urban design planning and incorporated into the earliest stages of planning.

### **3.3.4. Temporary Works Commissioned by Council**

Temporary public art commissioned by Council will provide opportunities for lower-cost temporary or semi-permanent installations that respond to current community themes. Temporary works may be exhibited anywhere between 1 day to 7 years. Temporary works will enable emerging and professional artists to access new opportunities for career development and gain experience in delivering public artwork. Council may determine from time to time to make temporary public artworks permanent.

### **3.3.5. Works Commissioned by Third Parties**

Public art commissioned and developed by private enterprises, associations or individuals (property developers, community groups, businesses or other third parties) must meet Council's criteria for public art.

### **3.3.6. Donation or Transfer of Works**

Public artworks proposed for donation to Council must meet Council's criteria for Public Art.

### **3.3.7. Public Art Maintenance**

Council is responsible for the maintenance and safekeeping of all Council commissioned or acquired public artwork. Assets procured under this policy are to be managed under Council's Asset Management Policy and procedures, with specific regard to maintenance linked with Council's corporate and business plans (including the Long-Term Financial Plan), budgets and reporting processes.

Every five years Council will commission an assessment of the maintenance needs of the public art collection. Council's Asset Management Team will implement the identified works.

### **3.3.8. Deaccessioning Public Art Works**

Public artworks must be managed to account for damage, degradation and potential theft. Circumstances where council might de-accession a piece of public art include:

- The cost of repairing the artwork exceeds its original value
- The artwork has been vandalised or damaged to the extent that it is irreparable or the reputation of the artist is at risk
- The artwork has degraded and/or become unsafe
- The artwork attracts negative public opinion

Artists must always be contacted prior to de-accessioning an artwork.

Council will be notified of the rationale to de-accession an artwork via the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee.

### 3.3.9. Public Art Register

Public art is recorded on Council's Asset Register.

### 3.3.10. Funding

Proposals for public art projects will be reviewed annually and referred to Council's annual budget process for consideration.

## 4. Definitions

Term	Definition
Commission	The process of acquiring a work of art
Deaccession	The formal process of removal of public art from the collection.
Third Party	Relating to a person or group besides an artist or the Council.
Transferred or donated work	Public art of either permanent or temporary definition, which was not commissioned by Council, but which is now proposed by a third party for Council to acquire.

## 5. Related Documents

Name	Location
<i>Local Government Act 2020</i>	<a href="https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/local-government-act-2020">https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/local-government-act-2020</a>
<i>Council Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029</i>	<a href="https://www.melton.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/council/about-council/council-plan-and-budgets/2026/mcc-councilwellbeingplan_20252029.pdf">https://www.melton.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/council/about-council/council-plan-and-budgets/2026/mcc-councilwellbeingplan_20252029.pdf</a>
<i>Asset Management Policy</i>	<a href="https://www.melton.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/2/council/publications/documentsreportsstrategies/policies/asset-management-policy-7-june-2021.pdf">https://www.melton.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/2/council/publications/documentsreportsstrategies/policies/asset-management-policy-7-june-2021.pdf</a>