

# Public Art Policy

<b>Approval Body:</b>	COUNCIL
<b>Endorsement Date:</b>	9 December 2025
<b>Current Version:</b>	<i>Policy documents change from time to time, and it is recommended that you consult the electronic reference copy on the Intranet to ensure that you have the current version.</i>
<b>Compulsory Review Cycle:</b>	4 years
<b>Review Date:</b>	<p><i>It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made administratively.</i></p> <p><i>Examples include a change to the name of a Council department, a change to the name of a Federal or State Government department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be by resolution of ELT.</i></p>
<b>Responsible Department:</b>	Creative Communities
<b>Responsible Team:</b>	Visual Arts
<b>Relevant Legislation:</b>	N/A
<b>Relevant Council Documents:</b>	N/A
<b>ECM ID:</b>	21492887

## 1. Purpose and Intent

The Public Art Policy confirms Council's commitment to enlivening and enriching the municipality through the commissioning of public art from leading professional artists.

### Context

This Public Art Policy aligns with the following [City of Casey Draft Council Plan 2025-29](#) Strategic Outcomes:

- Strong Communities - Delivering programs, fostering partnerships and empowering healthy, safe, inclusive and connected communities.
- Liveable City - Holistically planning, building, managing and influencing an accessible, high-quality built environment for a growing City of Casey community.
- Thriving Local Economy - Supporting the local economy, attract new businesses and promote local employment.

This policy will also align with the 2026-2030 Arts and Culture Strategic Service Plan which outlines the future direction of the service.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to the acquisition and commissioning of public art by the City of Casey Council. This policy does not relate to public art on private land.

## 3. Definitions

Key term	Definition
<b>Council</b>	means City of Casey Council, being a body corporate constituted as a municipal Council under the Local Government Act 1989
<b>Councillors</b>	means the individuals holding the office of a member of City of Casey Council
<b>Council officer</b>	means the Chief Executive Officer and staff of Council appointed by the Chief Executive Officer.
<b>Work of art / artwork</b>	means a form or expression of the visual arts. It may include, but is not limited to, painting, sculpture, ceramics, photographs, printmaking, drawing, use of information technology, multimedia and mixed media.
<b>De-accessioning</b>	means the permanent removal of a work of a Public Art asset.
<b>Public Art</b>	means any artwork which is displayed in public places. It is accessible to everyone and can take a wide variety of forms including sculptures, murals, installations, etc. It can be permanent or temporary. Public art can reflect a community's values, history, or culture. It can be a powerful tool for social change, community engagement, and economic development.
<b>Renewal</b>	means the replacement of a public artwork into an area where previous works have been de-accessioned.
<b>Council owned land</b>	means land that is currently owned by Council

<b>Proposed Council owned</b>	means land which is intended for transfer to Council ownership, in particular land that is part of a new estate or development which will be handed over to Council when development is complete.
<b>Council managed land</b>	means land which is owned by another party, with an agreement/ lease in place for Council to manage the land on behalf of the landowner.
<b>Disposal</b>	means the physical removal of a work of art or public art from the collection, following de-accessioning.
<b>Moral rights</b>	are rights of creators of copyrighted works which includes the right of attribution, the right to have a work published anonymously or pseudonymously, and the right to the integrity of the work such as the display of the work in the way the artist intends.

## 4. Policy

### 4.1. The Role of Public Art

The City of Casey prides itself in high-quality civic planning and design, including architecture, landscape architecture, public spaces, and green building practices. Council understands and values the unique role that public art can play in vibrant thriving communities - it can create a strong sense of identity to new developments; create meaningful connections to people and place; it can serve as a memorial or historical reference; it can be used to create gathering points or landmarks; can be a feature of celebration, and it can be a key factor in regeneration projects. Council also understands and values the wider role that arts and creativity play in good physical and mental health for our communities.

### 4.2. Aims of the Public Art Policy

The aims of the Public Art Policy are to:

- Integrate public art into City of Casey's natural and built environment by embedding it into the planning processes.
- Achieve high quality public artworks through standards of innovation and excellence across all aspects of the commissioning process.
- Develop a public art collection that is progressive, innovative, contemporary, challenging and stimulating, and that explores a variety of mediums, scales and approaches.
- Actively seek to diversify artists and artworks commissioned to reflect our community.
- Foster equity and a sense of identity and pride in public spaces within the City of Casey.
- Engage the community in projects in a way that is meaningful and empowering.

### 4.3. Council Led Public Art Commissioning

Council led public art commissioning in the City of Casey is funded at 1% of total capital works projects, both new and renewal works, valued over \$10 million, that can be invested within the project envelope or at other Council-owned location within City of Casey as agreed upon by the Project Sponsor.

Where works at a development site are staged, an overarching strategic approach at the commencement of the project will be undertaken to consider the timing and location of artwork across the entire development site.

### 4.4. Council Led Public Art Commissioning Governance

Within Council led projects, a Public Art Project Working Group, comprising various cross-disciplinary expertise from across Council, will be established for each public art commission. The Public Art Working Group will be responsible for the following:

- Informing decisions about the selection of projects in which there will be a public art component or artist involvement.
- Allocating appropriate budgets to support public art opportunities identified.
- Informing and developing the project brief.
- Providing feedback on commissioning in relation to their area of expertise

- Ensuring that public art projects meet the aims of the Public Art Policy and other leading strategic documents of Council.
- Participating in the assessment of Expression of Interest applications and concept submissions.

Composition of the Public Art Working Groups will include -

- Public Art Officer
- Head of Visual Arts team
- Project Manager
- Project design team representative/s to include where possible architecture and landscape architecture
- Where possible a representative of community/end user as appropriate
- Other Council departments and subject matter experts as required

A technical review of any proposed public artwork, both Council led or by private entities, will be undertaken separately, to cover

- Engineering
- Cleaning and maintenance – Team Leader Horticulture and Play spaces
- Health and Safety as well as Risk Management

#### **4.5. Community Based Public Art Initiatives**

Council encourages and supports community based public art initiatives where possible. However, due to the high volume and frequency of these projects, public art outcomes from community-based projects will not be added to the Council's asset register, nor will they be repaired or replaced should they fall into disrepair. Any public artwork with has fallen into disrepair can be removed at the Council's discretion. For more information regarding deaccessioning see section 4.9.

#### **4.6. Public Art Commissioning by External Parties**

All Public Art commissioned by external parties, including developers, businesses, and any other organisations, which intend to locate artwork on Council owned land, proposed Council owned, or Council managed land, must adhere and align to the Council's Guide to Public Art Commissioning.

#### **4.7. Commitment to Best Practice Public Art Commissioning**

Council strives to work to best practice to ensure the fair treatment of artists and other creative industries specialists.

- We will work in an open and transparent manner.
- Council will, where possible, use Arts Law contract templates or equivalent to ensure fair legal agreements between Council, artists and other creative industries specialists.
- To ensure fair and reasonable compensation for the artist's work, Council will align with the National Association of Visual Artists NAVA national guidelines. Council will always remunerate artists for concept design, detailed design, any consultation work undertaken, fabrication and installation.
- Council will acknowledge and protect artist's moral rights (the right to be attributed as the creator of the work and the right to object to any distortion or modification of the work that would harm the artist's reputation).

- Council will align and adhere with the Indigenous Art Code, which sets standards for fair and ethical treatment of First Nations artists. It promotes transparency and ensures that artists are treated respectfully in commercial arrangements.

#### **4.8. Cleaning, Maintenance and Management of the Public Art Collection**

Council commits to cleaning, maintaining and managing the public art collection to industry standards, preserving the artworks and ensure safety, through the provision of maintenance funds that will be reviewed annually to reflect the identified needs of the collection's effective management.

Council will seek to commission public artworks that are low to no maintenance wherever possible.

#### **4.9. Design Life Expectancy and Deaccessioning**

Council led public art commissions will seek to deliver artworks which have a minimum expected design life of at least 10 years and 5 years for mural projects.

When the work poses a risk to the public, is no longer able to be maintained or the context for the work has changed, it will be necessary for Council to relocate, remove or dispose of it – this is known as deaccessioning. Periodically, City of Casey will review the collection and identify works of art that need to be deaccessioned. A report will be prepared that outlines why the work needs to be deaccessioned and will reference:

- Whether the conservation and/or storage requirements are beyond the reasonable means of the City of Casey.
- Whether the item is irreparably damaged or destroyed or is missing, or stolen without hope of return.
- How the item no longer meets the current acquisition criteria for the City of Casey Public Art Collection.
- Whether a substantiated request has been received by the City of Casey or the return of the item to its owner/donor.
- Whether the item continues to have artistic merit as determined by the Council's Public Art Officer or equivalent nominated industry expert.

A deaccessioned item must be disposed of by the following methods listed in priority order:

- Returned to the artist or their family.
- Destroyed or recycled.

### **5. Diversity and Equality in Our Public Art Commissioning Statement**

The City of Casey is home to a remarkable diversity of cultures, languages, faiths, identities, landscapes, and stories. From our First Australians to our most recent arrivals and every wave between, the City of Casey welcomes and represents all community members and their respective ambitions to live healthy, rewarding, and happy lives. These intersecting and overlapping community stories form the City of Casey's collective identity contribute to its evolving, rich history. Council recognises this diversity as our strength and aims to share, nurture, and celebrate it.

The City of Casey is committed to reflecting the rich diversity of our communities through our public art commissioning. Council will seek to celebrate our community's remarkable diversity, including various

cultures, languages, faiths, ages, LGBTIQ+ identities, disability and landscapes through the public art commissioned.

## 6. Fair Access Statement

This Statement of Intent establishes the expectation that gender equality is considered and prioritised in all current and future City of Casey's planning, policy, service delivery, and practice as they relate to public art commissioning.

**6.1.** The City of Casey recognises that gender equality is the attainment of equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities of women, men, and gender diverse people. Equality does not mean that women, men, and gender diverse people will become the same but that their rights, responsibilities, and opportunities will not depend on their gender.

**6.2.** The City of Casey recognises that gender equity is the provision of fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits and responsibilities based on gender. The concept recognises that people may have different needs and power related to their gender and these differences should be identified and addressed in a manner that rectifies gender-related imbalances.

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) of the Public Art Policy has been undertaken. This assessment has enabled integration of recommendations within this policy to better meet the needs of people of different genders and promote intersectional gender equality. It will continue to be maintained and implemented as an internal reference

## 7. Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

All children and young people who attend services, programs and events delivered by, and spaces owned or managed by the City of Casey, have the right to feel and be safe. The wellbeing and safety of children and young people in our care will always be our priority.

Council has a zero-tolerance of child abuse and is committed to creating and maintaining a child safe and child-friendly organisation where all children are valued, and protected from abuse, harm, and neglect.

The City of Casey is committed to creating and maintaining a child safe organisation where protecting children from abuse, harm and neglect is embedded in the everyday thinking and practice of Council, its employees, contractors, and volunteers.

## 8. Responsibilities

Who	What
Public Art Officer, City of Casey	Overseeing and leading all Council led public art commissioning
	Supporting and advising private developer led public art commissioning
	Cleaning, maintenance and management of public art collection
	Four yearly reviews of all strategies, policies and any other documentation relating to public art within the City of Casey

## 9. Breaches

NA

## 10. Relevant Forms

NA

## 11. Appendices

## 12. Document History

Date approved	Change Type	Version	Next Review Date

### Contact the City of Casey:

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**Phone:** 03 9705 5200

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**NRS:** 133 677 (for the deaf, hearing or speech impaired)

### Customer Service Centres:

**Narre Warren:** Bunjil Place, Patrick Northeast Drive

**Cranbourne:** Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre

**ABN:** 43 320 295 742



**TIS:** 131450 (Translating and Interpreting Service) المترجم الفوري 翻译 مترجم شفاهى ਦੁਬਾਸੀਆ ගෘහ මගීර්වක

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