

HONOURING WYNDHAM LOCALS – PLAQUES & MEMORIALS POLICY 2022-2027

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT



PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this project was to consult with internal and external stakeholders on the newly devised Plaques and Memorial Policy by gathering feedback on the key aspects of the policy as well as to provide an opportunity for general feedback and suggestions.

Wyndham City understand that members of the community may wish to honour a deceased person by establishing a plaque or memorial. While plaques and memorials are an ideal way to honour a Wyndham Community member, in some instances, they can pose a significant threat to road safety.

Consultation was open via the Loop from Monday the 5th of September 2022 until Monday the 3rd of October 2022, a duration of four (4) weeks.

METHODOLOGY:

The below table outlines the various methods and techniques used to engage with the community.

Community engagement activities / tools	
Method / technique	Stakeholders engaged
Project page on The Loop	137 page views 113 total visitors to the page
Online survey	15 surveys completed
Direct contact from residents	0 emails received

Communications / marketing activities		
Method / technique	Stakeholders engaged	Dates
Wyndham City Living Facebook Page.	Wyndham Community 14 th of September – Post reach: 2,101 persons, click throughs: 11, Shares: 3 23 rd of September: - Post reach: 2,707 persons, click throughs: 8, Shares: 1 30 th of September: - Post reach: 2,788 persons, click throughs: 9, Shares: 1	3x posts encouraging residents to have their say on the newly devised policy -14 September -23-September -30 September

Policy information pack provided to all Councillors	Wyndham Community	<p>14th of September – Councillor Facebook post x 1</p> <p>23rd of September - Councillor Facebook post x 1</p> <p>Various other – Any additional word of mouth discussions that may have taken place at meetings, events, etc.</p>
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SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK:

We Asked	You Said	We did
Do you believe the Plaques and Memorials Policy provides adequate direction for the provision of plaques and memorials within Wyndham?	<p>Yes – 87%</p> <p>No – 13%</p>	Acknowledged those who feel the policy does not provide adequate direction (comments provided below regarding their individual feedback.)
For requests for individual plaques, the Policy refers to the deceased person/s requirement to have lived in Wyndham for a 'significant' period of their life. What do you consider to be a significant period?	<p>10 years or longer – 34%</p> <p>30 years or longer – 40%</p> <p>50 years or longer – 7%</p> <p>Other – 7% (x1 vote for 20 years or longer, 1x vote for no set minimum number of years.)</p>	Recommend that the Policy be updated to state that the deceased must have lived in Wyndham for a minimum of ten (10) years to be considered for a plaque. We consider it to be most reasonable to select the lesser number of years (10 or longer), to increase opportunity for plaque eligibility as opposed to limiting it. This is largely due to the fact that only a small amount of public feedback was received throughout this consultation process.

Further Feedback:

You Said: I think the policy should be broader. Not important people in the community- just anyone! Provide guidelines about what kind of memorials- e.g., a plaque on a seat, a seat. We can't have too many seats.

We Did: Wyndham City understands the importance of honouring loved ones and specific eligibility criteria regarding the deceased's contribution to the community is only in place for the application of a plaque or seat with a plaque. No community contribution is required for a commemorative tree.

The Policy includes three (3) different ways in which the community can honour a loved one:

1. Plaque/Plaque and Seat (Plaques and Memorial Policy, 6.1)
2. Commemorative Tree (Plaques and Memorial Policy, 6.2)
3. Roadside Memorial (Plaques and Memorial Policy, 6.3)

You Said: I believe that Duncan's Road should be upgraded and that on each side there should be an avenue of honour so that many generations in the future can drive to Werribee from the freeway through the avenue of honour. Each tree with a plaque and a name which could represent a person or a family.

We Did: An avenue of honour is not the intended purpose of this policy and would limit the places in which family and friends can honour a loved one. Request for consideration of an avenue of can be raised to the relevant department for review.

You Said: It depends on what the person has done not just time in the community. Someone who has done great things but only lived here for a short period may be just as or even more deserving of recognition as many who have just kept breathing.

We Did: Regarding applications for a plaque/plaque and seat for a deceased individual, the individual must have had a 'significant connection to the Wyndham Community', therefore, not just those who have lived in Wyndham for a long time will necessarily be eligible for a plaque.

Individuals who had a significant impact on the community but did not reside in Wyndham for the required number of years will still be eligible for a commemorative tree.

You said: I believe the planting of a tree with plaque or park bench makes the commemoration more significant and contributes more to the community than just a plaque.

We Did: Applicants are provided with the opportunity to have the plaque attached to a park seat. The process of attaching a plaque to tree possess many health risks as the tree grows, increasing the trees chances of diseases and rot.

You said: I feel the sadly increasing number of roadside memorials can often be a distraction to passing traffic. This distraction can cause even more road trauma.
I feel 13 months is a generous period of time for this.

We Did: Consideration is given to the location of potential roadside memorials to ensure that they are not in a position that are deemed hazardous to passing traffic, or pedestrians.

You said: Shall have more information regarding former pioneers of Wyndham such as William Leake, Robinson Family, William Doherty, Davis Family etc. These local pioneers shall be remembered along with modern deceased people who have significant relationship with Wyndham.

We Did: Wyndham City has initiatives in place to honour these significant families such as streets and roads named in their honour, as well as the preservation of some of these families' 1800 blue stone homes.

You said: There is no mention of reviewing existing statues/memorials - what if they need to be removed e.g. Hobart city council. I also think they should be reviewed to respect aboriginal people and their land - Is there consideration if the new plaque/memorial is appropriate for the space, ensuring to consider the aboriginal land?

We did: The policy states that Wyndham City reserves the right to remove or relocate memorials to facilitate road maintenance activities, construction activities and/or open space parkland redevelopments. It also states that any memorial/item that is considered inappropriate, dangerous, or offensive will be removed immediately. This includes cultural inappropriateness.

You Said: People who have had a valuable contribution to the Victorian community as a whole should also be eligible.

We Did: Wyndham Council are responsible for the provision of plaques and memorials solely within the Wyndham Community.

You Said: This applies to my family. I'm the third generation of Rixon and Awty to live in Wyndham.

We did: Noted and thank you for your feedback

You Said: I think its good idea

We Did: Noted and thank you for your feedback

NEXT STEPS:

- The Policy will be updated to reflect the feedback, including a change to the eligibility criteria for plaque requests which introduces a minimum requirement of ten (10) years residing in Wyndham
- The revised Policy will be presented to Council for endorsement at a Council Meeting on 29 November 2022.

HOW CAN PARTICIPANTS STAY INVOLVED/INFORMED?

- Via The Loop by clicking on the 'Plaques and Memorials Policy' or by emailing Parks Feedback: parksfeedback@wyndham.vic.gov.au
- Contact details for further information: parksfeedback@wyndham.vic.gov.au