

<b>ORDINARY MEETING</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>1 MAY 2024</b>	

## **APPLICATION FOR MONUMENT IN PUBLIC SPACE**

52/8/1-01 | #7401934

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

1. Approves the installation of a monument at the Aeroglen Dog Off Leash Park, to serve as acknowledgement of the working dogs of the Queensland Police Service.
2. Notes that the monument, including its installation and relevant permits or approvals are to be fully funded by the applicant and unveiled on 7 June 2024.
3. Notes that the proposed initiative has followed the provisions of the Acknowledgements, Memorials and Monuments General Policy in particular provision 2.4, significant contribution to the community.
4. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2009* to approve the exact placement and specification for the statue.

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### **INTERESTED PARTIES:**

- David Raymond (Applicant)
- Lions Club Cairns Trinity Bay

*Note: The identification of interested parties is provided on a best endeavours basis by Council Officers and may not be exhaustive.*

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report is in response to the application made on 27 March 2024 to install a statue and plaque to commemorate working dogs of the Queensland Polic Service, in particular PD 361, Axel.

Applications of this nature are assessed against the Acknowledgements, Memorials and Monuments General Policy (The Policy). Following an assessment by officers, it has been determined that the proposal aligns with the overarching principles of the policy and the commemoration is for a contribution that is of significance to the region. As such, it is recommended that Council conditionally approves the statue to be located at the Aeroglen Dog Off Leash Park subject to the finalisation of the exact placement and specification with Council officers.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Requests are regularly received by Council from individuals and organisations seeking permission to place memorials, plaques, and monuments in open spaces. These areas are an important community resource and memorials, monuments and plaques need to be carefully considered to ensure they do not impact negatively on these spaces.

The application is assessed against the Acknowledgements, Memorials and Monuments General Policy. The policy sets out the following principles:

1. All requests will be handled in a compassionate manner
2. Proposals do not result in particular locations reaching saturation point or interfere with the intended purpose of the region's parks, gardens, facilities, open spaces or reserves;
3. There is no negative impact on future land use planning or maintenance expenditure of Council;
4. Council operations and community access should be able to occur in a safe, secure and efficient manner; and
5. Adverse impacts to the surrounding environment, businesses and residents are mitigated.

The Policy sets out the conditions for monuments to be considered by Council for approval. The Policy states:

*Following formal assessment by Council officers, written applications for memorials and monuments may be approved by Council resolution in the following exceptional circumstances:*

- *A significant anniversary of an event unique to the regions history, culture or development.*
- *Acknowledgement of substantial contribution made by an individual, community group, association or charitable organisation to community life or the public domain. The name must not identify a corporate, commercial or business entity and financial contribution alone is not grounds for recognition.*
- *Any other reason deemed significant or worthy by Council.*

Council received an application from David Raymond, on behalf of the Lions Club of Cairns Trinity Bay on 27 March 2024 to install a statue and plaque of a recently deceased Police Dog and commemorate all working dogs of the Queensland Police Service (Attachment 1,2 and 3).

The application is to acknowledge the work of the working dogs of the Queensland Police Service and was inspired by the work of Police Dog Axel, PD 361. Axel served the community, along with his handler from April 2015 to November 2022, and was responsible for the location of many offenders, including an offender who was the number one wanted man in Australia, and evaded police for 12 years.

Prior to receiving the formal written application, officers had conversations with the Lions Club representatives who originally wanted to install the statue and plaque either on the Cairns Esplanade or Munro Martin Parklands. The Policy is clear that generally new monuments will not be supported at:

- Esplanades within the local government area, including the Cairns Esplanade and Northern Beaches.
- The Cairns Botanic Gardens, including Flecker Gardens, Centenary Lakes, Visitors Centre, Tanks Arts Centre, Munro Martin Park and Mount Whitfield Conservation Park.

Officers recommended to the group that if they wanted an application to be considered by Council, an alternative location would need to be provided. The formal application provided two options for consideration, Touch Park Dog Off Leash Area, Aeroglen and Barlow Park Dog Off Leash Area, Portsmith.

### **COMMENT:**

An assessment of the two locations and against the policy was undertaken by officers.

#### **Touch Park Dog Off Leash Area (Recommended)**

Touch Park Dog Off Leash Area is a suitable site for the installation of this monument. As a popular dog off leash destination, there will be good appreciation amongst regular users for the intent behind the statue. There is sufficient space within the site and being in close proximity to the Yellow Arrow Trail Head and Touch Association, there will also be high foot traffic to ensure it serves as prominent acknowledgement of the Working Dogs of the Queensland Police Service.

#### **Little Barlow Park Dog Off Leash Area (Not Recommended)**

Due to the desire to undertake future master planning at this site and the potential impacts that Olympic investment may have to the area, the installation of any monument in this location is not supported at this time.

#### **Assessment of application against Policy**

Under The Policy, provision 2.4 allows a written application for a monument to be approved by Council resolution for exceptional circumstances, in particular, acknowledgement of the substantial contribution made by an association to community or the Public Domain.

### **OPTIONS:**

#### **Option 1 (recommended):**

That Council:

1. Approves the installation of a monument at the Aeroglen Dog Off Leash Park, to serve as acknowledgement of the working dogs of the Queensland Police Service.
2. Notes that the monument, including its installation and relevant permits or approvals are to be fully funded by the applicant and unveiled on 7 June 2024.

3. Notes that the proposed initiative has followed the provisions of the Acknowledgements, Memorials and Monuments General Policy in particular provision 2.4, significant contribution to the community.
4. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2009* to approve the exact placement and specification for the statue.

Option 2:

Council does not approve the placement of the monument and recommends an alternate course of action.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

Risk Management:

The location, design and management of the monument will be approved in liaison with Council operational staff to mitigate risks to the area and ensure no financial impact.

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

There will be limited impact on Council finances and the applicant will be responsible for all maintenance and management of the monument.

Community and Cultural Heritage:

The proposed statue aims to give thanks and represent the value the community places on the working dogs of the Queensland Police Service such as PD Axel.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

Corporate Plan 2021-2026 – Focus Four: Community and Culture.

Policy:

Acknowledgement, Memorials or Monuments General Policy.

**CONSULTATION:**

Discussions were held with both the Lions Club Cairns Trinity Bay and the applicant, who was the Dog Handler, in order to determine a suitable location for consideration under the policy.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Proposed Plaque

Attachment 2: Proposed Location



Tim Dendle  
Executive Manager Community Spaces



Destry Puia  
Director Lifestyle and Community

**Attachment 1: Proposed Plaque**

**Attachment 2: Proposed Location**

