

ADOPTED	
COUNCIL MEETING MIN NO	139/23
DATE:	21 JUNE 2023

VERSION NO	1.1
REVIEW DATE	JUNE 2027
FILE NUMBER	REC800012, REC800049

Objective

To provide a set policy for Council's art collection, including works commissioned, purchased, acquired or gifted to Council.

Legislative requirements

Nil.

Related policies and plans

- Mudgee Arts Precinct Strategic Plan
- Public Art Policy.
- Public Art Plan.

Policy

Scope of policy

This policy relates to Council's art collection displayed or stored indoors. It does not relate to public art works displayed or installed at external locations, such as parks, gardens, squares and other public areas.

For art works displayed or installed at external locations, reference should be made to Council's Public Art Policy.

Role of the collection

Council holds its art collection on behalf of the Mid-Western Regional Council community.

Benefits of an art collection

Council recognises the following benefits of an art collection:

- 1 It identifies the region's heritage.
- 2 It honours creative work in a range of media.
- 3 It assists in building a community identity.
- 4 It regularly exposes the community to quality art.
- 5 It reflects the culture and interests of the community.
- 6 It provides an educative function.

7 It can be a valuable drawcard for cultural tourism.

Gifts and donations

Whilst Council recognises that, from time to time, works are offered as gifts to it with the intention that they be placed on permanent public display, this is not always possible and offers of gifts are not always to be accepted. In the circumstance of an offer of works as a gift (both bequests and donations), staff will provide advice to Council on acceptance (see below – Selection guidelines).

Conditional gifts are discouraged and should be refused where unreasonable or inappropriate restrictions are placed on either the display or storage of the proposed gift.

Selection guidelines

Whilst the Mudgee Arts Precinct is not intended to be an acquisitive facility, Council may from time to time consider works (whether commissioned, purchased, acquired or gifted) as appropriate for inclusion in the collection having regards to the following factors:

- 1 The work shows aesthetic merit, quality and skill.
- 2 The work shows competence in the use of materials.
- 3 The work will fill a gap or build upon strengths within the existing collection.
- 4 There is an appropriate Council location for the work to be displayed or stored.
- 5 Council has an existing, and anticipates an ongoing, budget suitable for the storage, maintenance, conservation, security and insurance of the work.

Other factors

- 1 The work and/or artist may emphasise some regional reference.
- 2 The work collected may be of regional, national and/or international significance.
- 3 Selection should also consider the value of proposed work in relation to the existing collection.
- 4 The work must be able to prove a valid title or authorship.

Collection catalogue

Work collected must be documented by way of an art register in order to:

- 1 Safeguard aspects of the collection.
- 2 Encourage greater understanding of the collection.
- 3 Develop an educational role for the collection.

The art register will be maintained through Council's Corporate Asset Management System.

Deaccessioning

Decisions may need to be made about de-accessioning artworks from Council's ownership. This includes works that:

- 4 Are a duplicate of another object in the collection;
- 5 Is badly damaged or deteriorated to a degree that conservation is not a viable option;
- 6 Is considered unsafe;
- 7 Cannot be suitably stored; or
- 8 Should be returned to an Aboriginal, Torres Strait or other community group as part of a national or international convention on the restitution of cultural property.