

## 11.5 Art Collection Policy

REPORT BY THE MANAGER, COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES  
TO 21 JUNE 2023 ORDINARY MEETING  
GOV400103, REC800049

### RECOMMENDATION

#### That Council:

1. receive the report by the Manager, Community & Cultural Services on the Art Collection Policy;
2. place the Art Collection Policy on exhibition for 28 days to seek feedback from the community; and
3. adopt the reviewed Art Collection Policy if no submissions are received during the exhibition period.

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### Executive summary

Council's Art Collection Policy was last endorsed by Council in 2017 and is now due for review.

### Disclosure of Interest

Nil

### Detailed report

Council's interests in arts and cultural activities have expanded since the last reiteration of this policy, including the opening of arts facilities, such as the Mudgee Arts Precinct and its accompanying Cultural Workshop site.

The following are the significant updates in the attached draft policy:

1. Reference to Council's Cultural Development Committee has been removed. This Committee has been considered redundant now Council has its own cultural staff.
2. Reference is made specifically to the fact that Mudgee Arts Precinct is not intended to be an acquisitive facility (but may consider acquiring art from time to time having regard to a number of listed factors).
3. The policy discusses reasons why Council's ownership of artworks may be de-accessioned.

### Community Plan implications

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Looking After Our Community</b>
Goal	Meet the diverse needs of the community and create a sense of belonging
Strategy	Support arts and cultural development across the region

## Strategic implications

### **Council Strategies**

Mudgee Arts Precinct Strategic Plan – The strategic plan specifically does not recognise the Art Precinct’s collection as acquisitive.

### **Council Policies**

Council’s Disposal of Assets Policy should be read in conjunction with this policy when considering the de-accessioning of certain works of art.

### **Legislation**

Not Applicable

## Financial implications

Not Applicable

## Associated Risks

For those limited circumstances where Council considers acquiring artworks, consideration needs to be had to suitable options for the display, insurance and preservation of the works, as well as any storage requirements (if relevant).

FIONA SHEARMAN  
MANAGER, COMMUNITY & CULTURAL  
SERVICES

SIMON JONES  
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

17 May 2023

*Attachments:* 1. DRAFT Art Collection Policy (with tracking).

### APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM  
GENERAL MANAGER



## POLICY Art Collection

*A prosperous  
and progressive  
community.*

ADOPTED		VERSION NO	1
COUNCIL MEETING MIN NO	159/17	REVIEW DATE	JUNE 2021/APRIL 2027
DATE:	21 June 2017/17 May 2023	FILE NUMBER	REC800019

### 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 had](#) 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.

~~POLICY: ART COLLECTION CERAMIC ART COLLECTION | , ERROR! REFERENCE SOURCE NOT FOUND.~~

7 It can be is a valuable drawcard for cultural tourism.

### ~~Cultural Development Committee~~

~~The Cultural Development Committee is a section 355 committee of Council that is charged with providing advice to Council on matters relating to arts and cultural development, including the commissioning, selection, maintenance, protection and de-accessioning of collection items.~~

### 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), ~~the Cultural Development Committee 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

~~The Cultural Development Committee~~ Whilst the Mudjee Arts Precinct is not intended to be an acquisitive facility, Council may from time to time will 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.

~~3~~ 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.

POLICY: [ART COLLECTION](#)[CERAMIC ART COLLECTION](#) | [1](#), [ERROR! REFERENCE SOURCE NOT FOUND.](#)

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:

- are a duplicate of another object in the collection;
- is badly damaged or deteriorated to a degree that conservation is not a viable option;
- is considered unsafe;
- cannot be suitably stored; or
- 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.