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Roadside Tribute Policy
Engagement Summary

Between Friday 24 October and Friday 5 December 2025, Central Coast Council sought feedback for the Draft Roadside Tribute Policy.

The draft policy aims to support community members who wish to honour the memory of a loved one. Council recognises the deep emotional significance that roadside memorials may serve for those processing grief.

Community members were invited to share feedback through the Your Voice Our Coast webpage, which featured an online submission form, and a FAQ section to address common queries. Submissions could also be sent via email or post.

From those who made a submission, we heard a sense of general support for the draft policy, acknowledging it attempts to balance grieving families' needs with community concerns. All feedback has been thematically organised, outlined in Figure 1, with further detail in sections below.

How you connected

- A total of **14** online submissions were received
- The draft policy was downloaded **265** times
- Your Voice Our Coast **795** views
- Facebook – **32,000** people were reached, generating **250** interactions
- Email sent to **393** Your Voice Our Coast subscribers
- Coast Connect print - Reach of **62,000+**

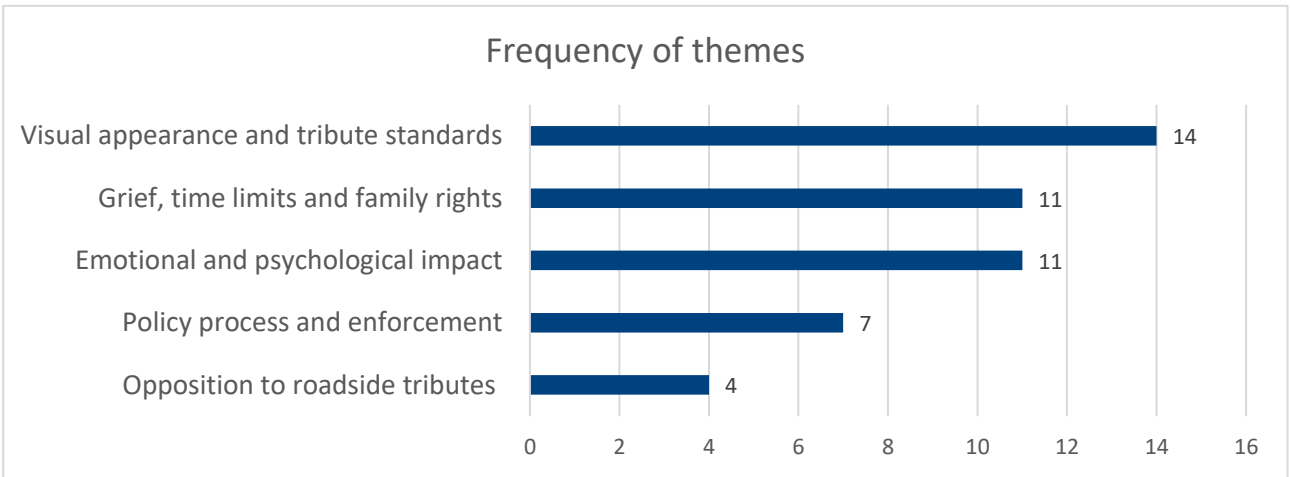


Figure 1 Frequency of themes mentioned throughout engagement
Total number of submissions = 14, each submission could cover multiple themes.

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What we heard

From those who made a submission, we heard a sense of general support for the draft policy, acknowledging it attempts to balance grieving families' needs with community concerns. All feedback has been thematically organised below in order of most frequently mentioned.

Roadside tributes

Visual appearance and tribute standards

Concerns about tributes becoming untidy or excessive over time. Includes deteriorating displays resembling 'dumpsites', elaborate items (teddy bears, furniture, solar lights), and discussions about permitted materials and size restrictions. Suggestions for alternative memorial types like plaques.

The effects of grief

Emotional and psychological impact

Concerns about the emotional and psychological effects of roadside tributes on the public, including trauma triggers for viewers and emergency workers with PTSD. Also includes driver distraction and safety concerns, as tributes can divert attention and potentially cause hazards.

Grief, time limits and family rights

Strong concerns about the 13-month time limit being insufficient for grieving families. Respondents argue grief timelines vary significantly and defend families' rights to maintain tributes for their loved ones. Personal experiences shared about ongoing grief many years after loss.

Policy suggestions and questions

Policy process and enforcement

Questions and concerns about how the policy will be implemented and enforced. Includes opposition to the registration/application requirement as bureaucratic overreach, and practical questions about who will police the policy and how existing tributes will be managed.

Opposition to roadside tributes

Respondents who believe roadside tributes should not be allowed at all on public land, arguing that cemeteries are the appropriate place for memorialising loved ones.

Council's response

Theme	Theme Summary	Council Response
Roadside tributes	Comments related to memorial items, and the distress caused by seeing roadside tributes	Detailed submissions outlined grief and trauma experienced by living close by or travelling past roadside tributes for residents and the general community often being young persons. It was expressed that there are better options for grieving families. The inclusion of a timeframe for display of roadside tributes should assist in minimising impact on the general public. No change proposed to draft Policy.
The effects of grief	Respondents commented on their personal grief experiences related to roadside tributes.	One submission supported ongoing timeframes for roadside tributes whilst the majority of respondents expressed adverse impacts on themselves and family as a result of roadside tributes. No change proposed to draft Policy.
Policy suggestions in terms of words and ideas	Respondents offered ideas and word changes to the draft policy.	One respondent queried the use of the word 'frangible' in describing items suitable for use in roadside tribute. Frangible materials are designed to be easily broken or crumble upon impact, intentionally for safety or functionality purposes. A definition of frangible was added within the policy.
Questions about the policy	There were questions about policy processes and a request for State Government information.	The draft Policy is a guideline to assist Council officers and community members. The Policy provisions including timeframes will not be applied retrospectively following Council adoption with Council holding no details on existing roadside tributes. The development of a register will allow a Senior Council Officer to respectfully liaise with family / tribute organiser of future roadside tributes, should it be required for safety or maintenance / roadworks. Family / organisers may register their roadside tribute with Council by completing a short form online via Council's website. Transport for NSW has a policy for management of roadside tributes on State Roads. No change proposed to draft Policy.

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What's next?

The draft Policy was adopted by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24 March 2026.

The adopted Policy and forms are now available online.

Find out more and stay up to date at
www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/memorials-and-roadside
April 2026