ACT Roadside Memorials Policy

The ACT Government has consulted with the community over the period October 2009 – March 2010 on whether memorials which commemorate the death of a person in a motor vehicle crash should be permitted in public areas.

While accepting this is an emotive issue, a majority of the respondents (58%) were supportive of the ACT Government formally adopting a policy permitting roadside memorials.

The following policy position has been developed:

- The ACT Government will allow roadside memorials to be placed in public areas it manages subject to the approval of the family and relatives of the deceased. Approval to allow roadside memorials on national land would be considered by the National Capital Authority, the responsible land manager.

- Acknowledging that the death of a loved one as a result of a motor vehicle crash can be very traumatic, the ACT Government through Roads ACT will as required facilitate discussions between affected parties and provide advice in the nature of roadside memorials to be permitted.

- The views of residents adjacent to any proposal roadside memorial should be sought and respected by those responsible for placing the memorials.

- Should there be conflicting views between affected parties, Roads ACT will facilitate discussions and will identify a location and type of roadside memorial that takes into consideration the views raised within the overall policy position that the ACT Government will permit the installation of roadside memorial on public land it manages.

- Roadside memorials can be placed at a location on a permanent basis subject to them being maintained in a tidy and aesthetic condition that poses no hazard to the public in the view of Roads ACT. The ACT Government will remove roadside memorials that pose a safety hazard or are not maintained. Roads ACT will endeavour to contact the relatives of the deceased person prior to the roadside memorial being removed unless it poses an urgent safety hazard to the public.

- The ACT Government will also remove any signs or other fixtures that is considers insensitive or offensive.
• In general, roadside memorials can consist of:
  ➤ A small floral display and or ground plaque of durable materials such as stone, concrete or cast metals.
  ➤ small structures no greater than 1.0m high, comprising timber; stone; concrete or metal installed in a manner that does not pose any safety hazard to the public in the views of Roads ACT.
  ➤ Covering an area of no more than 4 square metres.

• Impacts on underground services will need to be investigated and the person responsible for placing the roadside memorials are encouraged to discuss the details of the roadside memorials with Roads ACT in the first instance. Roads ACT will assist in identifying information on any underground services.

• The initial point of contact for Roadside Memorials within Roads ACT will be the person performing the role of Director, Roads ACT who can be contacted by calling Canberra Connect on telephone number 13 22 81.