

INTERPRETATION POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

Council recognises and acknowledges the important social, historical and cultural significance of interpretation in telling the story of our place and our community.

The intended outcome of the Policy is to ensure a transparent and standard assessment is followed for all formal applications received for any interpretation associated with the local regions stories and rich cultural heritage.

2. POLICY STATEMENT AND SCOPE

For purposes of this policy, the definition of interpretation is *'the different communication methods and ways of presenting information to educate, inform, and engage visitors with the local stories, history and ecological value of many sites across the Port Macquarie-Hastings Region.'*

This policy will cover all new requests/applications for interpretation across the local government area.

Council will establish and manage an Interpretation Review Panel who will assess and endorse new interpretation applications, with meetings to be convened as required.

2.1 Objectives

This policy aims to:

- Assist Council staff and community members to maintain a visually engaging style for interpretation in any public spaces across the region that aligns with Councils cultural vision 'to be creative, inclusive, diverse, innovative and connected' (Cultural Plan 2021 - 2025)
- Ensure a transparent and standard assessment is followed for all interpretation requests and applications.

2.2 The Nature of Interpretation

Council will support a diverse range of interpretation that is most suited to the nominated site and shaped by the following themes:

Aboriginal - history/historical and contemporary

Settler heritage - colonial history

Collective memory - events, places, connections or modern stories of importance to community

Flora and fauna/Environment

Geological

Archaeological

People/Social persons of significance

Interpretation may include, but is not limited to the following types:

- Signage
- Artwork, memorials
- Commemorative installations
- Digital projection

This Policy applies to any individual or group who are proposing a new interpretation in our region including:

- Port Macquarie-Hastings Council staff
- All Councillors (including the Mayor)

- Community members
- Community organisations

2.3 Funding

Once applications are ratified by the Interpretation Review Panel, final approval is the responsibility of the Chairperson of the Interpretation Review Panel. Successful applications will then be presented for endorsement by Council with a Letter of Support enabling applicants to pursue funding options.

2.4 Ownership and maintenance

Successful projects delivered within the region will become a Council asset once installed and will be captured onto a 'Public Spaces Interpretation Register' for PMHC to monitor and maintain.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES

The Community Inclusion and Cultural Manager will be responsible for:

- The implementation of the policy;
- Ensuring the Interpretation Strategy and Guidelines are followed by all stakeholders;
- Ensuring the policy is reviewed and updated to meet all compliance requirements;
- Overseeing the consulting with applicants during preparation of interpretation applications;
- Coordinating the Interpretation Review Panel and ensuring they meet as required.

4. REFERENCES

The Interpretation Policy draws upon the following Council documents, in respect of both governance and ensuring best practice for interpretation in the Port Macquarie - Hastings region:

- Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Cultural Plan (2021 - 2025)
- Port Macquarie Macquarie-Hastings Development Control Plan 2013 (2021)
- Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Imagine 2050 Community Strategic Plan (adopted 2022)

5. DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Interpretation	The different communication methods and ways of presenting information to educate, inform, and engage visitors with the local stories, history and ecological value of many sites across the Port Macquarie-Hastings Region. Interpretation can take many forms including signage, artwork, memorials and other.

6. PROCESS OWNER

Group Manager Community

7. AMENDMENTS

Not applicable, new policy