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# Procedure Roadside Memorials

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D10#252657  
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# Document Control

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## Amendments

Revision Number	Revision Date	Description of Key Changes	Section / Page No.
0	01/12/2010	Initial issue	All
1	23/12/2015	Document review undertaken	All
2	20/04/2018	New corporate format and change of ownership	
3	23/08/2018	Minor text changes and revised notices within Appendices	
3.1	20/11/2019	Details about access to register added, custodian changed	
4	25/03/2021	Update to include unregistered roadside memorials, update definitions, formatting	All
4.1	10/07/2023	Update to formatting section 4.3.1.1 and 4.3.1.3	
5	15/04/2026	Comprehensive update to whole document such as: Policy and Guideline changed to Procedure, unsafe locations consolidated, reviewed and explicitly listed. Images provided, Memorial Owner defined, five year memorial consideration listed.	All

## 1 OVERVIEW

Memorials at fatal crash sites provide a means for assisting people to grieve for their loved ones as well as serving as a visual reminder to road users, delivering a powerful road safety message. Main Roads respects the need for people to install roadside memorials, but must also provide a safe and efficient road network to all road users to meet its obligations under the *Main Roads Act 1930*. To do this Main Roads needs to consider potential safety hazards including visual distractions to motorists, physical objects that could harm road users and the possible movement of personal items onto the road. Main Roads also needs to consider the safety of pedestrians in close proximity to fast moving vehicles.

Main Roads' overall objective is to respect people's grief and ensure the road environment is safe for all road users. This procedure has been developed in consultation with the community and various interest groups. It has been prepared to inform the public, Local Government, Main Roads Officers and contractors of the types of roadside memorials approved and supplied by Main Roads on highways and main roads throughout Western Australia. It also outlines how Main Roads will arrange the installation and ongoing management of roadside memorials.

Changes made to this procedure are applicable to any new memorial installed or temporarily removed after the date of the update.

## 2 IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

**Roadside Memorial:** is described as a tribute constructed, installed, planted, painted or placed within the road reserve in honour of family or friends whose lives have been lost on the road or road reserve, as outlined in section 4.3.1.

**Roadside Memorial Owner Determination:** Typically, the next of kin or someone endorsed by the next of kin, will contact Main Roads requesting to install or register a roadside memorial. This person will be responsible for the memorial and will be considered as the Memorial Owner. Any dispute arising to determine the Memorial Owner, needs to be addressed by the parties concerned and is not the responsibility of Main Roads.

Note: further definitions are provided in section 6.

## 3 STATEMENT OF APPROACH

Main Roads has an obligation to provide a safe and efficient road network. Main Roads will be considerate and respectful of the needs of persons wishing to install roadside memorials along its road reserves acknowledging the need to;

- Liaise with the designated Memorial Owner, upon being contacted, for installation of an appropriate roadside memorial in accordance with this procedure;
- Supply roadside memorials and install or assist in their installation at suitable locations. (as defined in section 4.3);
- Will only approve or provide roadside memorials for crash sites where road fatalities have occurred. Only one (1) roadside memorial shall be allowed per life lost.

- Not accept responsibility for the security or maintenance of roadside memorials;
- Contact Memorial Owners before modifying or removing memorials, wherever possible.
- Remove or modify memorials that either pose a safety hazard or are in a poor condition.
- Have Regional officers oversee the safe storage and reinstallation of memorials impacted by planned roadworks/maintenance.
- Generally, not approve locations in the vicinity of residential dwellings.
- Not approve or provide roadside memorials for animals.

## **4 PROCESS**

### **4.1 Requests for Roadside Memorials**

When touched by tragedy, family and friends find a roadside memorial can help comfort and heal, as it provides a tangible record of a life lived and serves as a reminder to the community to drive carefully. When requests are received, Main Roads can support family and friends by explaining the requirements of this procedure and by installing, or helping to install, a suitable roadside memorial in the safest possible location. It should be noted that this procedure is intended to provide guidance to Main Roads Officers and each case should be dealt with on an individual basis.

Main Roads' foremost concern is that a safe road environment is provided for all road users and that family and friends and Main roads personnel are safe whilst a roadside memorial is being installed, visited, or maintained.

### **4.2 Registering Roadside Memorials**

To ensure that a memorial is safe for road users and to enable notification to the Memorial Owner of upcoming roadworks, it is necessary to maintain a register of approved memorials and their owners. These registrations will be recorded in the Roadside Memorial Approval Register – Statewide. Regions are expected to keep a record of denied requests.

Once the individual has successfully registered their memorial they will be referred to as the 'Memorial Owner'. Please note the contact details provided to Main Roads may be used for future contact regarding the memorial and this person will be responsible for the maintenance and safety compliance of the memorial.

Main Roads will not allow access to the Statewide register by third parties as it contains contact details and other sensitive information.

#### **4.2.1 Unregistered Roadside Memorials**

Memorials that are installed without Main Roads approval and do not have a registered Memorial Owner will be recorded as an 'unregistered memorial'. A notification (refer to Appendix 1) will be attached to the memorial structure. If Main Roads is unable to establish a Memorial Owner prior to the initiation of roadworks or maintenance, then the memorial may be treated differently with respect to removal (see section 4.4 and 4.5).

### 4.3 Roadside Memorial Specifications

Road Safety is of paramount importance when deciding on appropriate locations and types of Roadside Memorials permitted adjacent to Main Roads. The safety of all road users, visitors and those installing the memorials have all been considered in the development of these specifications.

Main Roads will approve, supply and assist with the installation of a cross, paver, or decal as per the specifications in section 4.3.2. Alternatively, the Memorial Owner may purchase a plant compliant with Main Roads' specifications and Main Roads will subsidise the purchase up to \$50 and assist with the installation.

#### 4.3.1 Location

Main Roads Officers will consider safety issues when determining an appropriate location for a roadside memorial. As of 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026, the following locations are NOT considered safe locations for roadside memorials:

- on traffic islands;
- on medians (unless median is  $\geq 10$  metres);
- on roundabouts;
- within design deflection zone of road safety barriers;
- in close proximity to substandard curves;
- on freeways (including freeway ramps) and certain highways (Roe, Tonkin and Reid Hwy);
- near the edge of the road (generally need to be  $\geq$  three (3) metres away from edgeline and more so on higher speed roads);
- obscuring road signs or interfering with the role of traffic control devices;
- where they are likely to cause concern to the occupants of nearby residential dwellings;
- near the edge of shared paths (need to be  $\geq$  one (1) metre away); and / or
- in other locations where the combined risks due to volume of traffic, travel speeds and road features do not support safe access, parking or egress to the roadside memorial location.

Note: certain roadside memorials may be permitted in some of the above locations, however these are specific to the memorial type. These exceptions are specifically listed under section 4.3.2.

#### 4.3.2 Type and Structure

In consideration of safety to all, the following specifications are to be complied with. If unsure or you have specific cultural or religious, please contact Main Roads.

Note: These specifications should be used as a guide only. Common sense should prevail when assessing memorial type.

#### 4.3.2.1 Cross

Crosses are constructed from timber and are:

- 850mm long (600mm out of the ground) and 400mm wide;
- Built from pieces 40mm x 18mm; and
- Painted white and are non-reflective.

Crosses shall be located in accordance with section 4.3.1.



*Image 1: Cross at Roadside memorial*

#### 4.3.2.2 Paver

Pavers are of grey concrete and are 600mm long and 300mm wide.

Pavers should be flush with the existing surface and shall be located in accordance with section 4.3.1 with the following exception:

- Pavers can be located on traffic islands and medians where the landscaping permits and only if pedestrian safety is acceptable.

Additionally Pavers shall NOT be located:

- Within the area which is regularly graded for shoulder grading or drain maintenance; OR
- On landscaped verges.



*Image 2: Paver at Roadside Memorial*

### 4.3.2.3 Decal

Decals are adhesive labels, 160mm long and 130mm wide, which display a white cross on a black background.

Decals shall be located in accordance with section 4.3.1, with the following exceptions:

- Decals are permitted at the base of traffic signal poles;
- Decals are permitted at the base of street light columns.

Note: these exceptions are only applicable if pedestrian safety is acceptable.

Decals shall NOT be located:

- On any traffic signs/poles or street name signs/poles.



*Image 3: Decal at Roadside Memorial*

### 4.3.2.4 Plant

Plants must comply with Main Roads specifications in regard to trunk size and setback distance. The requested plant type must be stated as part of the application/approval process and Main Roads will verify the appropriateness of the plant type for the location.

Examples of locally occurring plants that would be suitable for the metropolitan area are as follows:

- Honeybush (*Hakea lissocarpha*);
- Many of the Melaleucas (e.g. *Melaleuca preissiana*);
- Many of the small Eucalypts (e.g. *Eucalyptus todtiana*); and
- Many of the Grevilleas (e.g. *Grevillea manglesii*).

Examples of locally occurring plants that would be suitable for specific regional areas are:

- Geraldton Wax; and
- Albany Woollybush.

Other plants that are typical from other regional areas would also be considered if the plant is of special significance to the family. For a more comprehensive list or further information Main Roads Officers should contact the Environment Branch.

Plants shall be located in accordance with section 4.3.1 and additionally shall be:

- Outside of the maintenance clear zone.

Plants shall not be located:

- Where they may interfere with the role of any traffic control item;
- Where they may interfere with sight distance requirements for road users, or
- On landscaped verges.



*Image 4: Plant at Roadside Memorial*

### 4.3.3 Memorabilia and Personalisation

Main Roads understands that personalising a memorial may provide comfort to families and friends of people who have lost their lives on the road. In the interest of preserving safety for all, items such as flowers, toys and other personal effects to a reasonable extent, must be firmly secured only on the memorial. Memorabilia should not exceed the dimensions outlined in the memorial requirements, the reason being that such items may be a visual distraction to road users. Physical objects could harm road users and the possible movement of personal items onto the road could be a potential road safety hazard.

Some items that are a safety hazard and should not be used include:

- Reflective material such as flowers wrapped in foil and cellophane
- Solar, battery operated lights, or any form of illumination
- Rocks, bricks, glass bottles, vehicle parts or other non-frangible items
- Garden beds with plants and/or seating.

Personalisation of crosses should be limited to non-reflective material. Please refer to Appendix 2 for Notice of Modification of Memorial due to presence of hazardous items at a memorial site.

## 4.4 Installation of Roadside Memorials

A Main Roads representative will assist in the installation of approved roadside memorials as detailed in section 4.3. The Main Roads Officer will ensure its placement is in accordance with Main Roads' standards and requirements and most importantly take into consideration the safety of road users, visitors and installers.

## 4.5 Maintenance of Roadside Memorials

The road reserve is maintained by Main Roads WA. Main Roads does not accept responsibility for the loss or damage of roadside memorials that may occur due to vandalism and is not responsible for the maintenance of roadside memorials. Main Roads, will as part of its regular maintenance

program, report on memorials on its network which have been subject to vandalism or are in a significant state of disrepair.

If the condition of a memorial has deteriorated Main Roads will endeavour to contact the owners of a memorial to discuss its condition and to confirm their wish for the memorial to remain in place.

#### **4.6 Visiting a Roadside Memorial**

Main Roads is concerned for the safety of people who visit roadside memorials. They may expose themselves and other road users to safety risks. If people visit roadside memorials they must understand that roadsides can be hazardous locations and take appropriate precautions. It is thereby important that family and friends park their vehicles safely and well clear of the road while attending the roadside memorial. Main Roads can provide advice as to what precautionary steps may be taken to maintain a safe environment.

Family and friends visiting roadside memorials need to be respectful of nearby residents, private property and other road users.

Stopping on Freeways is prohibited under the Road Traffic Code 2000 due to safety concerns. As such visits to Memorials on freeways are also prohibited. Consequently new roadside memorials are not permitted to be installed on freeways and other high-risk roads (Roe, Tonkin and Reid) after 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

#### **4.7 Roadworks Near Approved Roadside Memorials**

Main Roads will continue to perform all construction and maintenance works required within road reserves that contain roadside memorials.

Where works are required to the ground on which a registered roadside memorial is located, Main Roads will contact the Memorial Owner. The memorial will be carefully shifted away from the work area for the duration of works or safely stored by the relevant Region and then re-installed as close as practical to the original location at the conclusion of works unless otherwise advised by the Memorial Owner. Care will be taken to minimise damage to the roadside memorial. Note: should the Memorial Owner wish to store the memorial during the works, this is supported.

When the Memorial Owner cannot be contacted, or when a memorial is unregistered, Main Roads will make every effort to contact the owners of the memorial before the removal, which may include placing a notice on the memorial prior to removal for roadworks to take place (Refer to Appendix 3). At the conclusion of roadworks, the memorial will be reinstalled as close as practical to the original location in accordance with the current location requirements.

#### **4.8 Roadside Memorial Modification and Removal Process**

One of Main Roads' key objectives is to maximise road safety on Western Australian roads. If any roadside memorial presents a safety hazard (Refer to Section 4.3.) it will either be modified, relocated or removed immediately. Following this Main Roads will make efforts to contact/inform the Memorial Owner of the actions taken, by placing the relevant notifications: If modified for safety reasons the notice (Appendix 2) will be placed at the memorial, if removed for safety reasons the notice (Appendix 4) will be placed as close as practical to the previous memorial site.

Memorials that comply with section 4.3.2 but are in a poor state of repair or there are cause concerns due to its location may be removed. Registered Memorial Owners will be contacted by Main Roads. If Main Roads is unsuccessful in contacting the Memorial Owner, or if the memorial is not registered, a notice (Appendix 1) will be attached to the memorial for the responsible person to contact Main Roads within 60 days. If Main Roads does not receive any response within the given timeframe, the roadside memorial will be removed and a removal notice put in place (appendix 4). In both cases Main Roads will store the removed roadside memorial for a period of 12 months prior to disposal.

After period of time (maximum five years), the Memorial Owner should be encouraged to transition the long term-memorial locations outside of the road reserve, ideally to a place of significance to the family. This would apply to roadside memorials installed or reinstalled after 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

For further information regarding the procedure for projects, please see the flow chart Roadside Memorial Removal and Reinstatement Process (Appendix 5).

## 5 CONTACTS

Main Roads Customer Information Centre: 138 138.

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

## 6 DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Bitumen/road seal	The surface of the road.
Carriageway	The portion of a road or bridge devoted particularly to the use of vehicles, inclusive of shoulders and auxiliary lanes.
Contractors	A contract with a third party to deliver a set of given services for a defined period to maintain sections of the road network.
Control of Access Road	Roads that do not permit pedestrian access or parking. For example; the Freeways, Tonkin Highway and Reid Highway.
Freeway	A divided highway for through-traffic with no access for traffic between interchanges and with grade separation at all intersections.
Guideposts	A wooden or plastic white post with a reflector at the edge of the carriageway.
Highway	Highways provide connections between capital cities. They are also principal routes between a city and the major producing regions of the State. Highways also service major transport terminals or significant commercial and industrial centres.
Landscaped verges	Landscaped frontages/ mown verges that are adjacent to the road. For example estates such as Secret Harbour and Carramar.
Main Road	A principal road in the road system
Median	Divides two carriageways
Memorial Owner	Is the individual responsible for the memorial who will be contacted for all matters relating to the memorial. Preferably this person would be the next of kin of the deceased, if not, someone endorsed by the next of kin.
Next of Kin	Closest blood relative or legally recognised relative. Commonly, in order of priority are: spouse, children, parents, siblings or other relatives.
Registered memorial	A memorial that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is compliant with Main Roads safety standards</li> <li>• where the contact details of relevant person/s have been provided</li> </ul>
Road Reserve	The area either side of the road that belongs to Main Roads
Roadside Structure	For example, bridges, overpasses, tunnels.
Principal Shared Path	Paths which are adjacent to freeways, major highways and rail corridors. These paths cater for pedestrians, including those in wheelchairs, and cyclists
Traffic Control Item	Traffic signals or signs.
Traffic Islands	Small refuge typically located at intersections.
Unregistered memorial	A memorial that has not been informed to Main Roads prior to installation and where the contact details of the relevant person/s have not been provided

## 7 REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Description
<b>D21#158920</b>	Flow Chart – Projects Roadside Memorial Removal and Reinstatement Process)
<b>D06#122369</b>	Roadside Memorial Approval Register – Statewide
<b>D08#145509</b>	Roadside Memorial Brochure

## 8 APPENDICES

Appendix	Title
<b>Appendix 1</b>	Roadside Memorial Notice (Registration)
<b>Appendix 2</b>	Roadside Memorial Notice (Modification Without Notice)
<b>Appendix 3</b>	Roadside Memorial Notice (Temporary Removal or Relocation due to Roadworks)
<b>Appendix 4</b>	Roadside Memorial Notice (Removal of Memorial)
<b>Appendix 5</b>	Flow Chart Roadside Memorial Removal and Reinstallation Process

## Appendix 1: Roadside Memorial Notice (Registration)



# Roadside Memorial Notice (Registration)

At Main Roads we support the installation of memorials on the roadside as a means for assisting loved ones to grieve and to serve as a powerful road safety message.

As this memorial is not in our register, we ask that the responsible person makes contact on 138 138 within 60 days of the date below so that we can obtain their contact details.

This makes it easy for us to work together in the event that we may need to modify or temporarily remove the memorial due to road works or items at the memorial are deemed hazardous.

Kind  
regards.  
<xx  
Region>

## Appendix 2: Roadside Memorial Notice (Modification Without Notice)



# ROADSIDE MEMORIAL NOTICE (Modification Without Notice)

At Main Roads we support the installation of memorials on the roadside as a means for assisting loved ones to grieve and to serve as a powerful road safety message.

Whilst respecting the grief of loved ones we also need to ensure that the road environment is safe for all road users.

There were some parts of this memorial that were reported to be distracting or unsafe for other road users <select from 4.3 if there has been a modification> and the memorial required some immediate minor modifications <list here>.

We have made the necessary modifications and will safely store removed items for a period of twelve months from the date below.

If you are the responsible person or know who this memorial belongs to, please contact us on 138 138 so we can discuss this matter further with you.

Kind Regards

<XX Region>

**Appendix 3: Roadside Memorial Notice (Temporary Removal or Relocation due to Roadworks)**



**ROADSIDE MEMORIAL NOTICE  
(Temporary Removal or  
Relocation due to road works)**

At Main Roads we support the installation of memorials on the roadside as a means for assisting loved ones to grieve and to serve as a powerful road safety message.

We are about to commence work in this area which requires us to temporarily remove/relocate this memorial.

Should we not receive any contact before the works commence, we will remove/relocate the memorial until the works are complete.

Once the work is finalised we will reinstate the memorial as close to its original location as possible.

If you are the responsible person or know who this memorial belongs to, please contact us on 138 138 so we can discuss this matter further with you. If you are the Memorial Owner, you may wish to store the memorial until the site is ready for it to be reinstated.

Kind Regards

<XX Region>

## Appendix 4: Roadside Memorial Notice (Removal of Memorial)



# ROADSIDE MEMORIAL NOTICE (Notice of Removal)

At Main Roads we support the installation of memorials on the roadside as a means for assisting loved ones to grieve and to serve as a powerful road safety message.

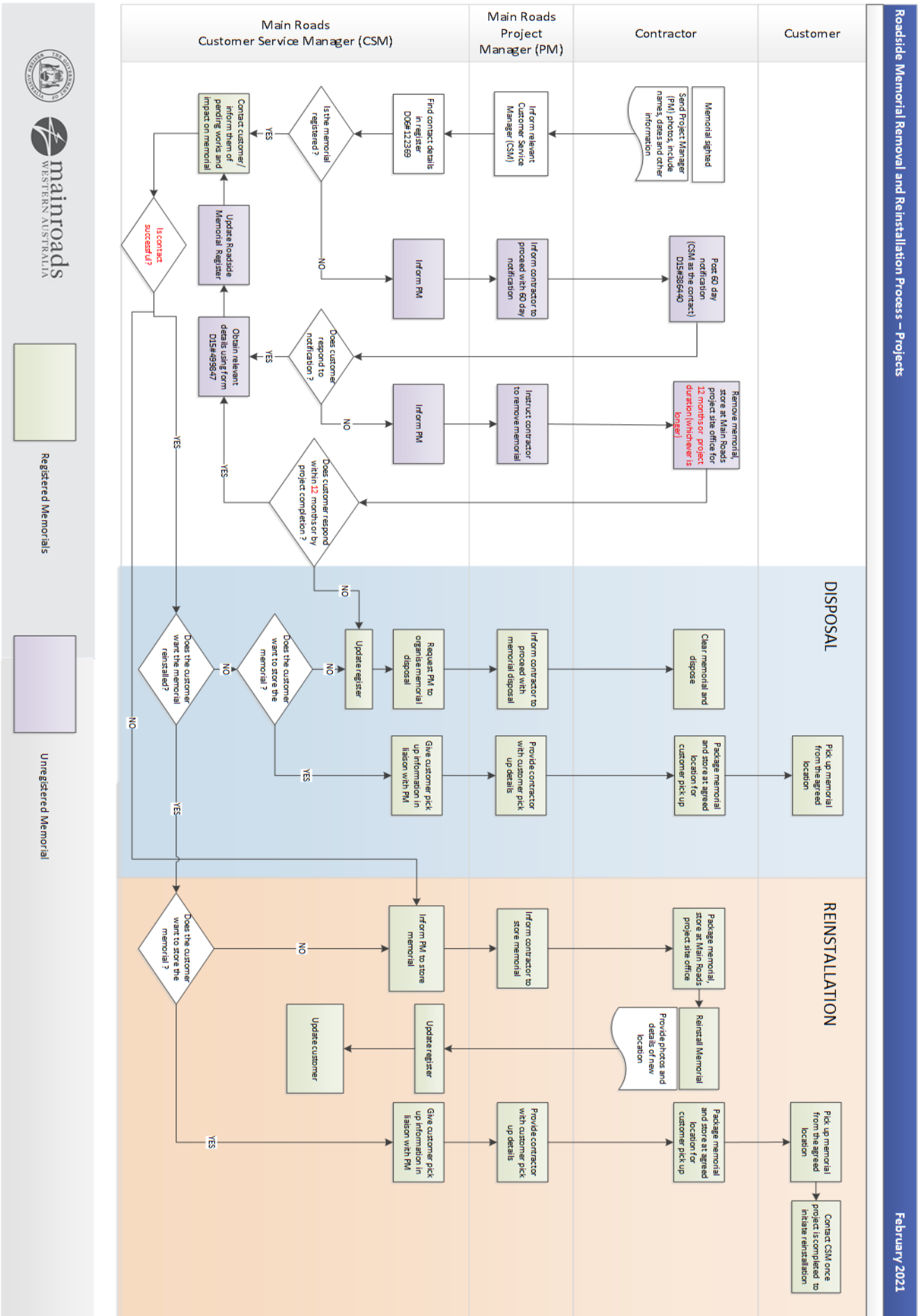
Whilst respecting the grief of loved ones we also need to ensure that the road environment is safe for all road users.

The memorial at this location was unsafe for other road users and required removal for the following reasons <select from 4.3>. We will store any removed items for a period of twelve months from the date of removal.

If you are the responsible person or know who this memorial belongs to, please contact us on 138 138 so we can discuss this matter further with you.

Kind regards  
<XX Region>

## Appendix 5: Flow Chart Roadside Memorial Removal and Reinstallation Process



Roadside Memorial Removal and Reinstallation Process – Projects

February 2021