

Policy



STRATEGIC

Cemetery Management

Head of Power

Local Government Act 2009

Key Supporting Council Document

Lockyer Valley Regional Council Corporate Plan (2022-2027):

- 1.2 Council optimises the use of its open space and facilities by improving access to and the quality of the facilities for individuals and groups for cultural, recreational and community activities.

Definitions

Burial or Interment Right	is a legal document which gives the licensee the exclusive right to use the specified piece of land for burials and to place a monument over the grave.
Burial or Interment Right Holder	the person who purchases a gravesite/plot or ashes niche, whether for immediate or future use, and holds a Burial or Interment Right for it.
Niche	a recessed space in the columbarium wall suitable for a container of ashes.
Plot	a small, numbered piece of land used for burial within a section of a cemetery.

Policy Objective

To provide a framework for the management and operation of Council's cemeteries promoting a safe and respectful environment for all users.

Policy Statement

Council is committed to:

The provision of interment and memorialisation services to the community and servicing the deceased and their families with dignity and respect.

- Preserving the history of the region's cemeteries and maintaining records
- Maintaining cemetery grounds to meet customers' needs and expectations
- Planning for future burial and interment needs of the regions communities.

Council is responsible for the administration and management of plot and niches purchases, transfer of burial or interment rights, approvals for monumental works, issuing of licences to work in cemeteries, maintenance of cemetery grounds, and the interment of ashes into the columbarium walls.

For each application made to Council for cemetery services an administrative fee is applied. These fees are reviewed annually and can be found in Councils fees and charge schedule.

A Burial or Interment Right does not grant the holder ownership over that piece of land, rather, it gives exclusive entitlement to the holder to intern the remains of a deceased person in the reserved plot or niche.

Council will collect the information necessary to meet its requirements for a cemetery register which is available to the public on request.

Appropriate maintenance of Council's cemeteries is required so that the essential elements which give the burial grounds their character are preserved in a way that maintains their significance. Maintenance of cemetery grounds excludes the care and repair of monumental work, weeding and general maintenance of individuals plots.

Appropriate materials are to be used to securely contain human remains for disposal. A person must not dispose of human remains in any section of a Council cemetery unless approval has been granted by Council. Disturbance of human remains buried in a Council cemetery must be undertaken by a qualified undertaker. A person must not dispose of human remains (excluding ashes) outside a Council cemetery in the Lockyer Valley region without approval.

Human Rights

Council is committed to respecting, protecting and promoting human rights. Council has an obligation under the *Human Rights Act 2019* to give proper consideration to human rights when making a decision, and to act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights. To the extent that an act or decision under this policy may engage human rights, Council will have regard to the *Human Rights Act 2019* in undertaking the act or making the decision.

Related Documents

Cemetery Management Procedure April 2023

Subordinate Local Law No. 1.13 (Undertaking Regulated Activities regarding Human Remains)

Subordinate Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads)