

Your local voice



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The Committee Secretary,
Standing Committee on Environment and
Transport and City Services
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

30 August 2017

Inquiry into the Management of ACT Cemeteries

The Weston Creek Community Council would like to make the following comments in relation to the inquiry into the management of ACT cemeteries.

Council is strongly of the view that there needs to be a Cemetery in Southern Canberra that offers all services. This is long overdue to the people of southern Canberra. Woden Cemetery has only ever offered only some services to residents of southern Canberra and council does not support the extending of this cemetery given the number of people likely to move into the Woden Town Centre area in the coming years. All available green space will be needed so the expansion of Woden Cemetery is not supported.

The ACT Government has made a number of important policy decisions regarding the Woden town centre, including the expansion of the Canberra Hospital and stage two of light rail from City to Woden which will bring a large increase in the population of this town centre area.

Even if the Woden cemetery were to be extended there would still be a need for another cemetery in a few years and there remains a need for an additional crematorium in the south of Canberra.

Council considers that the proposed cemetery should offer all services including a crematorium. This range of services should include:

- Conventional headstone burials,
- Lawn burials
- Garden burials
- Memorials for cremated remains, and
- Natural burials

The previous proposed location on Long Gully Road is one that Council agrees with. The only comment is that this road would need to be widened to two lanes in either direction to accommodate funeral processions and reduce the risk of accident with the normal traffic flow of trucks and cars with trailers to and from the Mugga Lane Tip, the Hume Industrial Estate and the Monaro Highway.

Public Transport would need to be adjusted to provide a good service from both Woden and Tuggeranong to those wishing to visit the Cemetery.

It would seem to Council that given the long lead time required to plan and construct a cemetery, it might be better to start work on the proposal earlier rather than later to cater for the needs of the community.

Council has the following comments to offer on funding. Any funding model needs to be cognizant of the ability of the community to pay for the cost of burials and cremations so as to not put these options out of reach for a large number of our residents.

In relation to Governance, Council has no comments to offer.

Tom Anderson
Chair
Weston Creek Community Council