

INQUIRY INTO FUNERAL INDUSTRY

Organisation:

Name: Hon Tony Kelly MLC

Position: Minister for Lands

Telephone: 9228 3999

Date Received: 8/08/2005

Theme:

Summary



New South Wales

The Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Justice
Minister for Juvenile Justice
Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Lands
Minister for Rural Affairs

MIN05/2146

Ms Susan Want
Director
Standing Committee on Social Issues
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

08 AUG 2005

Dear Ms Want,

I am pleased to provide a submission to the Standing Committee on Social Issues Inquiry into the Funeral Industry.

The Department of Lands, as the agency responsible for the care and control of Crown land, plays a major role in the provision of land for burials and cremations. The Department and the minister for Lands also administer the legislative framework associated with the management of Crown cemeteries by Crown reserve trusts.

A number of reviews that focus on the use and management of Crown land for burial and cremation purposes are currently being coordinated by the Department of Lands. The Department of Lands has responsibility, through the Minister for Lands, for many Crown cemeteries in the State.

An interdepartmental committee (IDC) has been established to look at the potential shortage of burial space in the Greater Metropolitan area of Sydney. The Cemeteries IDC, chaired by Warwick Watkins, Director General of the Department of Lands, is considering options as to how the supply of land for burial might be made more sustainable.

Given the sensitive nature of decisions regarding burials and in order to ascertain the views of the funeral industry, the attached discussion paper has been prepared by the Cemeteries IDC and distributed to major stakeholders in the funeral industry in the Greater Metropolitan area of Sydney.

Members of the funeral industry were requested to provide their views by 30 June 2005. If requested, a summary of the views expressed could be provided once analysis of the responses has been undertaken.

Further to recent amendments to the *Necropolis Act 1901*, the Department of Lands is currently reviewing the management of Rookwood Necropolis. The appropriateness of the legislation relating to the Necropolis will be addressed by this review.

The Rookwood Management Review is not expected to be completed until November 2005. Should, however, the consultants undertaking the review discover information that is pertinent to the review by the Standing Committee on Social Issues, the information will be forwarded as it becomes available.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K".

Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Lands

COPY

Department of Lands

Land Administration & Management
Property & Spatial Information
Cemeteries IDC
GPO Box 15
SYDNEY NSW 2001
Phone: 8236 7138
Fax: (02) 8236 7030
email: burials@lands.nsw.gov.au

LANDS05/223

Dear

As Chair of the Cemeteries Interdepartmental Committee formed to consider options for addressing the present and potential shortage of burial space in public cemeteries, I am pleased to provide you with the attached discussion paper 'Burial Space in the Sydney Greater Metropolitan Area'.

In order to make recommendations about what changes, if any, could be made to ensure a more sustainable supply of burial land for the future, the views of key stakeholders in the funeral industry are being sought.

This discussion paper has been forwarded to Crown, council and private cemetery and crematorium managers as well as the Cemeteries and Crematoria Association of NSW and the Funeral Directors' Association of NSW. The responses that are received will be collated and provided to the Government for consideration.

I hope the discussion paper will act as a trigger for your ideas and that you will take this opportunity to provide input into the process. The paper does not recommend options but rather seeks comments and suggestions as to how the problems associated with the provision of burial space may be addressed.

Your response by mail, fax or e-mail as described in the discussion paper would be appreciated.

The closing date for submissions is the 30th June, 2005.

Yours sincerely



Warwick Watkins
Director-General

20 May, 2005



BURIAL SPACE

in the

SYDNEY GREATER METROPOLITAN AREA

Stakeholder Discussion Paper



Prepared by the NSW Government
2005

FOREWORD

New South Wales has a long and proud history of providing public burial places for its people. Since the early days of the colony, significant areas of land have been set aside for public cemeteries. Today as in the past, these cemeteries continue to provide accessible and affordable burial and cremation services for the general community. Privately operated cemeteries also now fulfil this role.

As the population of New South Wales has grown, so has the demand for the State's finite land resources. As a result, land available for new burial sites is limited, particularly in the metropolitan areas of Sydney, Newcastle, the Central Coast and Wollongong.

While enough burial space exists to meet the short and medium term burial needs of most sections of the community, without action the general community within these areas will be faced with fewer burial choices in future years. There is therefore a need for strategic planning to ensure adequate burial space is available in the GMA in the long term.

These problems are not unique to New South Wales. Other communities within Australia and abroad have also been confronted with shortages of land for burial and have developed appropriate strategies to manage burial land limitations.

The purpose of this discussion paper is to explore and promote discussion within the funeral industry on the available options. As some of the options involve a shift from current, more 'traditional' burial practices, they may not suit all sections of the community.

The discussion paper is not recommending options but rather seeks comments and suggestions as to how the problems associated with management of burial space in the GMA can be addressed.

The Government recognises that various religions and cultures have specific burial requirements and traditions, and remains strongly committed to ensuring that these are respected and accommodated. The Government is opposed to the introduction of alternative burial practices in a way which impinges upon the basic beliefs of any religion or culture. All options are put forward with this fundamental principle in mind.

I look forward to your participation in the discussion on these initiatives, and would welcome your comments as to the best way that we can ensure a more sustainable industry in the future.

Yours sincerely

TONY KELLY, MLC
Minister for Lands

***The purpose of
this discussion
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1. INTRODUCTION

The establishment of public cemeteries on both Crown and local government land within the Sydney Greater Metropolitan Area (GMA) in the 19th and early 20th centuries has ensured that most sections of the community have had access to affordable, conveniently located land for burial for more than a century. The GMA includes the Sydney, Newcastle/Lower Hunter, Central Coast and Wollongong regions.

As the GMA has expanded, priority has been placed on utilising available land for other purposes such as housing, industrial infrastructure, open space for recreation and essential public facilities such as schools and hospitals. In addition, rising land values have increased the cost of acquiring large sites for cemeteries.

No large Crown cemeteries have been established in the GMA since French's Forest Bushland Cemetery in 1937. Private cemeteries and crematoria have, however, been established.

Exacerbating the problem of limited burial space within the GMA is the fact that the available land is not being used in a sustainable manner. Burial practices which extend the life of cemeteries and which are used in other states of Australia and overseas are not practiced in New South Wales.

If no action is taken, metropolitan public cemeteries will eventually run out of burial space. The available options, although new to NSW, need to be considered and discussed now, before there is a crisis in burial land availability.

While no single change of policy or practice will ensure that there is sufficient public burial space in the GMA for future generations, the introduction of a number of measures would slow the reduction in available burial space within cemeteries or potentially lead to sustainable land use for cemeteries. The purpose of this paper is to explore the options available.

Some of the options discussed would take considerable time to have effect. They would not be effective in ameliorating medium term¹ shortages if their implementation is delayed until the shortage of burial space becomes critical.

In addition to ensuring that sufficient burial space is available, provision for ongoing maintenance of cemeteries is also required.

The discussion paper is not recommending options but rather seeks comments and suggestions as to how the problems associated with management of burial space in the GMA can be addressed

¹ In this paper, short term means up to five years, medium term means 5 to 20 years and long term means more than 20 years.

2. CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA IN THE GMA

Cemeteries and crematoria within the GMA can be divided into three major categories:

- i. **Public cemeteries and crematoria** are either Crown cemeteries managed by Crown reserve trusts (the majority of available public burial spaces) or local government cemeteries on Crown land or land owned by local government councils. There are nine Crown cemeteries within the GMA, three of which contain public crematoria (Botany, Woronora and Macquarie Park Cemeteries) and around 100 local government cemeteries. There are approximately 300,000 public burial spaces available in the GMA.
- ii. **Private cemeteries and crematoria** are primarily located on freehold land (the privately operated Rookwood Crematorium is on Crown Land). There are eight private cemeteries in the GMA providing approximately 380,000 burial spaces; and ten private crematoria.
- iii. **Church and family cemeteries** are associated with places of worship or family owned private land. Church cemeteries are normally the responsibility of the relevant diocese, parish councils or equivalent authorities. The number of burial sites of this type remaining is not known but is not believed to be significant.

3. DIMINISHING BURIAL SPACE IN THE GMA

Approximately one quarter of Australia's population live in the GMA, and it has been estimated that over 245,000 gravesites will be required by 2020

Approximately one quarter of Australia's population live in the GMA, and it has been estimated that over 245,000 gravesites will be required by 2020. This figure is based on ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) projected population and death rates in the GMA and assumes that the proportion of cremations to the number of deaths (approximately two thirds) will remain constant over the period.

A survey sent to local councils, Crown land cemetery trusts and private cemetery operators in the GMA in 2002, indicated that some 680,000 gravesites are currently available. This means that more than a third of the currently available gravesites are likely to be used by about 2020 and all of the currently available gravesites may be used in the next 45 years i.e. by 2050, if not before.

The survey also revealed that:

- Some of the operational cemeteries within the GMA or sections within them are nearing exhaustion, many have burial space for less than 20 years and others contain ample burial space to meet burial demands for several generations.
- Private companies own around half of the land remaining for burial in the GMA. It is not known what plans private companies have to purchase more land.
- A large number of cemeteries within the GMA are closed for burials.

Land available for new cemeteries within the GMA is scarce. The growing population within the GMA means that there are strong and competing demands for land for new housing, commercial and industrial infrastructure, major public facilities, open space areas, transport networks and primary production. In addition, historical experience suggests communities prefer to have some separation of

cemeteries from residential areas. Establishing sufficiently large and accessible new sites for cemeteries has become increasingly difficult, especially since the size of the site involved and the cost of the land may be a significant.

4. THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN THE PROVISION OF BURIAL SERVICES

Government has had a long-standing involvement in various aspects of burial, as follows:

4.1 The provision and maintenance of public land for burial

Burial space has been provided by the Government in metropolitan cemeteries for over 200 years, although significant new Crown cemeteries in the GMA have not been provided since 1937.

4.2 Planning for land uses

State and local government undertake land use planning and designate broad land use zones. Competing interests for land can make cemeteries and crematoria development less competitive than other uses within close proximity to urban areas.

4.3 The administration of statutes governing cemeteries, including health standards

Government legislation administering cemeteries and crematoria includes the Crown Lands Act 1989, the Local Government Act 1993, the Necropolis Act 1901, the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000, the Public Health Act 1991, the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and the regulations associated with these Acts.

4.4 The provision of affordable interment, including the interment of deceased, destitute persons

Government has played a role in the provision of affordable interment by providing land for burial purposes; through management by volunteer trusts; and the provision of funds for interment of deceased destitute persons.

4.5. Recent Government action to extend the life of some Crown cemeteries in the GMA

The Cemeteries Legislation Amendment (Unused Burial Rights) Act, 2001 authorises certain Crown cemetery trusts in the GMA to revoke exclusive rights of burial for gravesites that have never been used and were allocated over 60 years ago, and provides for compensation to a previous owner if burial rights are revoked.

The Rookwood Necropolis Amendment Act 2004 allows denominational crematoria to be established at Rookwood.

5. OPTIONS TO ADDRESS THE SHORTAGE OF BURIAL SPACE

The options available to address the potential shortage of burial space in the GMA include:

- encouraging more intensive use of existing cemeteries through
 - i. more intensive use of family graves
 - ii. renewable tenure for new gravesites and community mausolea
 - iii. revocation of unused burial rights under certain conditions in all cemeteries in the GMA;
- consideration of cemeteries in land use planning;
- identifying public land that could be used for cemeteries and crematoria;
- encouraging the adoption of alternative interment practices;
- other more specific actions to address the immediate shortage of burial land for some groups.

5.1 Family graves

While most gravesites in NSW are dug to accommodate one or two burials, there is effectively no limit to the number of burials which can take place in any one grave provided the coffin's upper surface is no less than 900 millimetres below the level of the soil surface. Once this limit is reached the site is 'full' and no more family members can be buried with their deceased forebears in the same gravesite.

In NSW, there is a perception that burial rights are held indefinitely but numerous cemeteries have been closed and re-used for other purposes

Many gravesites in New South Wales already contain two or more members of the same family.

In South Australia and Western Australia (and proposed to commence in Victoria in July 2005) additional space is provided in family graves using the 'lift and deepen' method i.e. when required, the grave is excavated to its greatest depth, with all remains boxed and reburied at a lower depth, thereby allowing additional burials to take place in the upper levels of the grave. Handling of remains within a grave during the lift and deepen process is only allowed after a minimum time has passed since the

last burial, e.g. 5 to 15 years, to ensure sufficient decomposition of remains within the grave.

Family graves have several potential advantages such as allowing members of a family to be buried together; decreasing the demand for new gravesites; and supporting enhanced maintenance of gravesites by families.

Legislation could be introduced, applying to all gravesites from a specified date, which permits as an option:

- i. successive generations of a family to be buried in a family grave by using the lift and deepen method and/or
- ii. graves currently considered full to be reopened for other family members who wish to be buried in the grave by using the lift and deepen method.

Basic principles and conditions that could apply to family graves are outlined in Attachment 1.

5.2 Renewable tenure of gravesites

In NSW, there is a perception that burial rights are held indefinitely but numerous cemeteries have been closed and re-used for other purposes e.g. the Cleveland Street/Devonshire Street Cemetery (now Central Railway Station) and the George Street Cemetery near the present site of the Sydney Town Hall. Some remains were removed and reburied in other cemeteries such as Botany. More recently legislation has provided for cemeteries (or parts of cemeteries) at a number of locations including Camperdown, Gosford, Liverpool, Campbelltown, Parramatta, Wollongong, and Gladesville, to be closed and used for parks and other activities.

The Conversion of Cemeteries Act 1974 allows local councils to recover cemetery lands for public parks subject to certain criteria.

Renewable tenure allows the reuse of burial sites after a period of time has elapsed (e.g. 25, 50 or 99 years depending on the legislation or circumstances) unless the tenure is renewed. Graves are usually reused by using the 'lift and deepen' method (outlined in Section 5.1), which allows for additional burials to take place in the upper levels of the grave.

***Renewable
tenure is
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There are a number of ways in which renewable tenure could work.

One possibility is the introduction of renewable tenure for new burials, for (say) 25-50 years. At the end of the tenure period, the holder (usually a family member) would be contacted and have the option to renew the tenure again.

This would mean that those people in the community who never want their remains disturbed could be confident that this would be the case, perhaps allocating funds to be held in trust for this purpose.

If the tenure was not renewed, the 'right of burial' would revert to the cemetery authority for resale and reuse.

Although the benefits of renewable tenure introduced for new burial sites would take some time to be realised, there would be a clear understanding at the time of burial that the gravesite is not held in perpetuity and if permanent occupancy is required, tenure must be renewed at specified intervals. Existing graves would not be affected.

In South Australia the maximum term for a gravesite is 99 years but is 50 years for the main metropolitan cemeteries because of a shortage of existing space and high ongoing maintenance costs. A shorter term is being considered. Western Australia limits initial burial rights to 25 years.

Victoria does not have renewable tenure for gravesites but renewable tenure for cremation ashes will commence in July 2005.

Renewable tenure is common in Europe, with tenure periods usually being 50 years or less.

Legislation could be introduced that permits renewable tenure for all new gravesites at the discretion of individual cemetery trusts and cemetery managers. Basic principles and conditions that could apply to the renewable tenure of graves are shown in Attachment 2.

5.3 Renewable tenure for community mausolea

A community mausoleum is simply a large building designed to provide above-ground entombment for a number of people. Sharing the costs of the mausoleum with other individuals makes it more affordable than a private mausoleum. Family vaults and crypts do not generally increase the capacity of a cemetery unless they are more than about four tiers high.

Mausolea may be more sustainable if the niches are periodically reused, otherwise the space problem is simply relocated above ground. Therefore it may be appropriate to apply renewable tenure to mausolea to make them more affordable in the longer term and ensure their maintenance and repair.

Mausoleum costs are higher since they include the costs of embalming and a sealed coffin. The length of time required between the reuse of niches in a mausoleum would be longer than for graves because the embalming slows the process of decomposition.

5.4 Unused burial rights

Many burial sites will remain unused as the holders may have been cremated or buried elsewhere; or where the burial rights have devolved, the current holder may be unaware that they hold the burial right.

Existing legislation allows the 'life' of certain Crown cemeteries in Sydney and Newcastle to be extended by perhaps 5-10 years if the managers revoke unused burial rights sold more than 60 years ago (as discussed in section 4.5). There may be similarly unused sites in privately run or local government managed cemeteries in the GMA, that will never be used unless revocation action is undertaken.

Legislation could be introduced that extends the right to revoke unused burial sites, according to specific criteria, to all cemetery managers in the GMA. The conditions for revoking the burial sites could reflect the existing legislation e.g. the site was granted more than 60 years ago; and a requirement to contact the last known holder.

5.5 Land use planning

Land suitable for urban development in the GMA is in relatively short supply and because of the economic, environmental and social costs of urban expansion, the best use of existing and new urban land and infrastructure is required. Allocation of land to a cemetery may be difficult to justify in some locations, and the development of land for new cemeteries may in some circumstances not be able to compete with higher value activities.

Greater provision of land for cemeteries could be achieved through a focus on provision for future cemetery needs in all strategic urban planning, including for major new land release strategies, and through advice that councils should

consider the need to plan for cemeteries and crematoria when preparing local environmental plans.

For this approach to be effective, the funeral industry would need to identify the criteria for selection of a site such as the minimum area required, desirable and unacceptable physical characteristics, topography, soil type/characteristics, extent of vegetation coverage, need for buffering (e.g. noise), visual screening, compatibility with other land uses, accessibility and proximity.

Land use controls could allow cemeteries and crematoria as permissible uses in certain zones or areas. This may not, however, result in the land being used for cemetery purposes. Subject to the public consultation processes of the planning legislation, a site acquired for a cemetery or a crematorium could be specifically zoned for that purpose.

The land use planning process could also be used to secure land for future development of public cemeteries and crematoria through reservation in the same way provision is made in the planning of new urban areas for schools and other community infrastructure. This would require government commitment, however, to purchase the land when requested by the landowner, and this may be at the expense of other key government services such as health and education.

5.6 Provision of additional public cemeteries

The Government also has the option of purchasing additional land or allocating existing State-owned land for burial purposes. This option is hampered by the high cost of land, and the lack of large areas in the GMA of appropriate and undeveloped land. As indicated above, purchase of the land by the government may be at the expense of services in other key areas of government such as health and education.

While the government has provided land for cemeteries in the past, with the introduction of private cemeteries and crematoria, it is not clear that the government should provide additional land or how such purchases would be funded by government.

It may be that those public cemetery trusts with substantial financial reserves built up over time from cemetery operations should be encouraged to undertake long-term planning and acquire additional land for future use. This is, of course, not an option available to all trusts.

5.7 Encouraging the adoption of alternative interment practices

It is expected that cremation will become increasingly acceptable as a means for disposal of the dead. Some religious groups, however, are understood to not accept cremation.

Green burial (also known as natural or woodland burial) is increasingly being

Allocation of land to a cemetery may be difficult to justify in some locations, and the development of land for new cemeteries may in some circumstances not be able to compete with higher value activities

practised in England and parts of Europe and uses land in a less formal and obtrusive manner than conventional burial practice. Green burial involves the use of natural open space, limits the use of chemicals and encourages bio-degradable burial materials instead of concrete and metals.

Green burial is increasingly being practised in England and parts of Europe and uses land in a less formal and obtrusive manner than conventional burial practice

Graves within green burial sites are usually marked by a newly planted tree or small boulders. Small plaques may be located near to the grave marker to commemorate the deceased.

Prior to a site being assessed as suitable for green burial, a range of environmental and other community and heritage issues would need to be considered e.g. the potential impact on threatened species and endangered communities. Green burial could be used to rehabilitate currently degraded sites such as closed waste depots or land under power lines. Experience in England, however, shows that advocates of green burials prefer natural bush settings.

Green or woodland burial could be trialled in NSW.

5.8 Other actions to address the immediate shortage of burial land for some groups

Some denominational groups using Crown cemeteries will run out of land at these cemeteries in 2 to 15 years.

The strategies outlined above will not provide a solution to this problem since they will take a number of years to be effective. In addition, these religious groups may not support a number of the options proposed.

Available options for these groups include:

- Burial at other public or private cemeteries in the GMA i.e. there may be a shortage of land for some religious groups at one cemetery (or part of a cemetery) although an adequate supply of land may exist elsewhere;
- Alternative burial arrangements made by the groups themselves, e.g. purchase of additional land for burial; or agreement with particular cemetery managers to allocate part of a cemetery for burial by the denominational group; or burial within the grounds of their places of worship.

6 THE MAINTENANCE OF CEMETERIES

It is important to ensure that cemeteries are maintained both while they are operational and after they are full when there is no longer an income stream from new burials. There is currently no requirement relating to perpetual maintenance of cemeteries although there may be a public perception that cemetery grounds will be maintained forever.

Legislation could be enacted that requires public and private cemetery administrators to set funds aside for the future maintenance of cemeteries.

Basic principles and conditions that could apply to family graves

1. The introduction of family graves should not erode the rights of individuals and religions that require one burial per gravesite. As is currently the case, the use of a gravesite for burial of more than one person would remain optional and entirely at the discretion of the holder of the burial right.
2. If the holder of the burial right is deceased and has not specified his/her wishes in relation to further burials within a gravesite, then the burial right could be devolved to one or more persons, in a specified order of entitlement. Where the owner of the right of burial cannot be determined, the cemetery authority could be given the discretion to determine which person is entitled to exercise the burial right.
3. As is currently the case, the holder of the burial right for the grave would have the right to decide whether or not further burials are permitted within the grave, and which persons are permitted to be buried in the grave.
4. Handling of remains within a grave during the lift and deepen process would only be allowed after ten to fifteen years has passed since the last burial. However, individual cemetery authorities would be able to lengthen this minimum period if they felt that remains within a grave would not adequately decompose within this time period and/or where there are specific health issues.

Basic principles and conditions that could apply to the renewable tenure of gravesites

1. Renewable tenure should not be applied to existing graves. Renewable tenure should only apply to gravesites commencing from a specified date in the future.
2. Renewable tenure should be introduced at the discretion of individual cemetery trusts and cemetery managers.
3. Renewable tenure should not remove the option of effective burial in perpetuity for those who require it. Families would have the option to renew gravesites at any time for a fee for a maximum of (say) 50 years from the date of renewal.
4. The minimum tenure period for graves could be set at (say) 25 years, with the option of extending this up-front to (say) 50 years.
5. The holder of the right of burial should always have the option to renew the tenure of a grave at the end of each tenure period. Apart from the holder and his/her family, any interested party should have the right to extend the tenure period of any grave.
6. Upon expiry of a tenure period for a gravesite, a two-year period of grace should be applied before any steps are taken to prepare the gravesite for resale.
7. Upon expiry of a tenure period for a gravesite, the cemetery authority would be required to make all attempts to contact the holder of the right of burial to determine whether the holder wished to renew the tenure of the grave. Where contact details for the holder are no longer accurate, the cemetery authority would be required to:
 - place a public notice in newspapers with a state-wide circulation and those in circulation in the locality of the cemetery; and
 - place expired stickers on or next to the grave site or memorial and in the general location of the area of the cemetery in which the grave is located.
8. All cemetery authorities would be encouraged to dedicate a portion of their cemeteries for memorials contained on graves for which the tenure period is not renewed. Where this is not possible, the cemetery authority would be required to ensure that the historical records contained on all headstones and memorials continue to be available into the future. (In addition to the current requirement that cemetery authorities must maintain a register of all burials, this would involve taking photographs of headstones and memorials erected in honour of the deceased.)
9. A cemetery authority adopting renewable tenure would be required to manage the associated processes and practices through the preparation of a management plan for the cemetery.
10. Tenure holders should be advised to keep their contact details current.

Response to the stakeholder discussion paper:

BURIAL SPACE

in the

SYDNEY GREATER METROPOLITAN AREA

The Government is aware that the issues involved in this area are sensitive and complex, and that there are many different viewpoints to consider in developing solutions to the problem.

As a first step, the views of those people closely associated with the burial industry are being sought.

This discussion paper is NOT recommending options but rather, is seeking comments and suggestions on how the problems with respect to the provision of burial space can be solved.

Depending on the comments received, further public consultation will be undertaken on matters that the government considers warrant further investigation.

For this reason, you are encouraged to make a submission on the matters raised in this discussion paper.

The information contained in the document has been provided in good faith to be as accurate as possible. The identification of any incorrect information or additional information would be appreciated.

It is preferable, although not essential, that responses are made on the form below since use of the form will greatly assist in the collation of responses.

Responses should be sent by mail, fax or e-mail.

Mail	Fax	email
Cemeteries IDC c/o Department of Lands GPO Box 15 Sydney 2001	Cemeteries IDC (02) 8236 7030	burials@lands.nsw.gov.au

Your submission is requested by 30 June 2005.

***If you require any further information,
please phone (02) 8236 7138.***

***The Government
is aware that the
issues involved
in this area are
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HAVE YOUR SAY

RESPONSE FORM

**Response to the stakeholder discussion paper:
BURIAL SPACE IN THE SYDNEY GREATER METROPOLITAN AREA**

Name:

Group associated with:

Contact telephone number:

Yes No Undecided

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1. More intensive use of family graves is an acceptable choice to give to families | | | |
| 2. Renewable tenure could be introduced at the discretion of the cemetery manager: | | | |
| 2.1 for new gravesites | | | |
| 2.2 for ashes | | | |
| 2.3 for community mausolea | | | |
| 3. All cemetery managers in the GMA should have the authority to revoke unused burial rights according to a set of conditions/requirements | | | |
| 4. The government should identify and zone additional land that could be used for cemeteries | | | |
| 5. The government should search for existing public land that may be suitable for cemeteries | | | |
| 6. The government should acquire additional land for cemeteries (note: this could mean that the funding would be at the expense of other key Government services such as health and education) | | | |
| 7. Cemetery managers should be encouraged to set funds aside for future land for cemeteries | | | |
| 8. Green or woodland burial as an alternate interment practice should be encouraged / trialled in NSW | | | |
| 9. Cemetery managers should be required to set funds aside for the future maintenance of cemeteries | | | |
| 10. Other comments (attach additional sheets if required): | | | |