

**Submission
No 46**

INQUIRY INTO CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA AMENDMENT REGULATION 2018

Name: Mr Vincent Parkinson

Date Received: 29 August 2018

The changes to the Law allowing Cemetery operators to exhume after 25 years persons interred is beyond disgusting. It will cause much angst amongst families, especially those who cannot afford the fees Cemetery Trusts will charge for maintenance. I grew up in Sydney and have numerous past relatives interred in various places around NSW. My children and grand children take great pleasure in visiting the graves of these past relatives. Exhuming these ancestors will remove the last tangible link they have to those that have passed. The question of what will happen to exhumed remains must also be asked...what will happen to them? Will families be required to take them back? If so, what will the Law require for disposal or storage of the remains? If the family cannot take the remains, what will be done with them? Then there is the unthinkable situation where it is found a deceased individual is only partially decomposed when they decide to exhume and resell the plot...what will happen in that case? Will the remains be re-interred and the grave reinstated? Will families be required to cover the cost of exhumation and the re-burial of the remains, the refurbishment of the grave? Will the families be required to pay for any additional maintenance of the gravesite? Who will have the final decision on the exhumation of remains? Will families have a right of appeal on the decision? Will Cemetery operators be required to compensate families for the often very high outlays for headstones and grave coverings such as concrete or stone borders? Often the ashes of cremated relatives are interred in graves...what will happen with these remains? It concerns me greatly that a change to the laws such as this is being considered. What concerns me even more is that property developers are always waiting for any opportunity to acquire the land often considered as prime real estate because of their location. Developers care naught for anything other than the opportunity to make money and the chance of unscrupulous individuals to profit from the sale or release of cemetery land by means fair or foul is high and totally unacceptable. I strongly oppose a change to the Laws allowing for remains to be exhumed at ANY time, especially for the purpose of resale of the burial plot. For this reason I strongly urge anybody engaged in the discussion or debate of the suggested changes to the Laws to oppose said changes and not allow for them to be implemented, either now or in the future. Vincent CJ Parkinson Justice of the Peace (Qualified) - Queensland