

**Submission
No 97**

**INQUIRY INTO CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA
AMENDMENT REGULATION 2018**

Name: Mrs Maureen Russell

Date Received: 5 September 2018

4th September, 2018

The Honourable Scott Farlow MLC

Re: The Re-sale of Cemetery Graves - Sonia Hornery

I would like to forward my opinion on the above subject. I totally disagree with the graves to be re-sold.

It is disrespectful to our loved ones to be dug up after 25 years and thrown away like a piece of trash.

The people who make these decisions must have been born with no heart.

Have they really thought this matter through.

I was told 30 years ago by a grave digger that he had to re-use a body after being buried for 20 years as his wife decided to be cremated and had her husband re-used to be cremated as well. His body was still good and had not deteriorated.

Going to the Cemetery is a place where you can go and visit your loved ones and to remember them.

I know not everyone does this as some don't visit regularly BUT those that do should not be punished for their loved ones by digging them up.

Our family visit Sandgate and Wallsend Cemetery in Newcastle area twice a week and also clean the cemetery grounds and other headstones near our family as it is a large cemetery to look after.

The Government should buy land further out from the townships to accommodate this matter. If you had to drive a little further to visit your loved ones I am sure people would not mind.

As a matter of Interest The Old Wallsend Cemetery had all the Headstones removed and made into a park. The bodies were left undisturbed and this was done after the last person buried in the cemetery after 100 years.

I hope this letter has been read and taken into consideration.

Thanking you

Maureen and Allan Russell