

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

**Organisation:** Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia

**Date Received:** 6 September 2018

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ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

## GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA

Ιερά Αρχιεπισκοπή Αυστραλίας

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September 6, 2018

Att: The Director  
Regulation Committee  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

### Re: Submission against renewable tenure

Dear Director,

I write on behalf of His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, to express our concerns with respect to the regulator and enforcement of Part 4 renewable tenure at cemeteries including that of Rookwood as there has been little to no consultation with the Greek community and other stakeholders regarding matters arising from the statutory body of NSW Cemeteries and Crematoria. The potential threat of renewing graves after 25 years could become catastrophic for the general community including the Greek people, who for many years have enjoyed the right of burial ownership in perpetuity, as it would cause both an emotional and financial impact for the families.

It has been our observation that the Greek community has been excluded from consultation with the CCNSW over important and significant changes within Rookwood Cemetery, which we have not been able to comprehend, especially when a large portion of burial spaces are occupied by our Greek faithful.

We would also like to indicate that in Greece the burial practice typically includes a period of 3 years whilst bodies decompose and then placed in ossuary boxes in a building next to the Church. However, we note that the proposal in Part 4 does not reflect our burial practices overseas and may prove inconsistent with respect to our customs and religious diversity.

We therefore make this submission with the support of the Greek community and look forward to the opportunity of consultation in addressing the crisis of land shortage for burial space in a respectful and dignifying manner as befits our customs and religious traditions for our departed people.

Conveying His Eminence's blessing to you, I remain

Prayerfully yours

Bishop Iakovos of Miletoupolis  
Assistant Bishop of His Eminence  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia

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