

INQUIRY INTO CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA AMENDMENT REGULATION 2018

Organisation: Northern Metropolitan Cemeteries Land Manager

Date Received: 7 September 2018

As Northern Metropolitan Cemeteries Land Manager (Northern Cemeteries) is responsible for the care and management of five major cemeteries including Macquarie Park Cemetery & Crematorium (North Ryde), Field of Mars Cemetery (Ryde), Frenchs Forest Bushland Cemetery (Davidson), Gore Hill Heritage Cemetery (St Leonards) and Sandgate Cemetery (Sandgate, Newcastle) and are pleased to make a submission to support Part 4 (Interment Rights) of the Cemeteries & Crematoria Act 2013.

Renewable Tenure is not mandatory and families will always have the choice of perpetual or limited tenure and more importantly it is not retrospective, it only applies to sites purchased from the date the amendment is proclaimed.

We are constantly seeking additional land for future generations, however, renewable tenure is another choice for families. A choice of 25 years, 50 years, 75 years or in perpetuity.

Our role is to recognise the responsibility of serving the needs of our communities for burial and cremation services.

- We must recognise the rights of all individuals and treat their remains with dignity and respect
- Ensure that the interment practices and beliefs of all religious and cultural groups are respected
- We are always accountable and transparent
- Promote environmental sustainability

Our reputation rests upon how good we are at achieving this and more importantly our future depends on it.

Our aim is to make every service held within our cemeteries as perfect as it can be. We would never support a practice that is misleading or not sustainable.

We support and endorse these changes and see it as a positive move to provide more choice and options for our families.