

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

Organisation: Sydney Maori Anglican Fellowship

Date Received: 7 September 2018



**The Sydney Maori Anglican Fellowship
Church of Te Wairua Tapu Inc.**

P.O. Box 5186 Chullora Post Shop
Chullora Market Place, Chullora NSW 2190
Church Office: 9858-1626 E-Mail: sydmaf@tewairuatapu.com.au
ABN 30 090 633 117



07 September 2018

To Whom it May Concern

Dear Sir/Madam,

Firstly, I am currently the Archdeacon for Maori work in the Diocese of Sydney. I have held this position for the past 17 years. The Sydney Maori Anglican church building, (Church of Te Wairua Tapu) is located at 587 Elizabeth Street, Redfern, where we meet for worship services every Sunday morning at 10.30am. I am also responsible for granting permission in writing for any internments to place at the Maori Lawn Section located at Rookwood Cemetery.

Therefore, it is very important to inform you that in the Maori culture, our burial process is one that is respected. The loss of a loved one is very sacred to all of us. Within Rookwood Cemetery, they have reached the needs of our cultural and religious beliefs through their service delivery and adhering to our burial practice and rituals.

We have come to an understanding that there could be changes made to the renewal of graves to be for a period of 25 years or so. It would be safe to say, that our community will not take well to this, nor accept this. In the Maori culture, they believe once you lay a body to rest, you leave them to rest in peace for eternity. If this was not an option at Rookwood, we would resort to another cemetery that will respect our burial customs.

It is hard to deal with the reality that we have not been consulted with, or have had a chance to have our say in the matter, as it will ultimately affect our community. In terms of process, what are the usual proceedings, when there is a big change in the cemetery? Are stakeholders usually consulted with?

I believe there are so many questions that surface when this topic is brought to our attention. What financial support will be provided by either the Government or the cemetery if the family are unable to afford the renewal of the grave? Has it been considered about the emotional impact on families will be, when deepening their loved ones in a grave, then on selling it? Will the government be providing support and counselling services to these families?

The cost of living is going up as we speak, and it is a struggle to see how our future generations will be able to afford this model. We see the benefit in perpetual graves, for both our families financially and culturally.

There is definitely a lack of effort on behalf of CCNSW to pre-empt how their communities on a whole will feel about this change. It would be worth organising a forum, and get a majority vote to see if that has the support on this project from the communities. I am certain, that it will become transparent, that our feelings, and the hurdles you will all face both now and into the future.

Yours Sincerely,

The Venerable Kaio Malcolm Karipa

Archdeacon for Maori work in the Diocese of Sydney