

Council Controlled Cemeteries

29 October 2024

Placement of Items other than Authorised Memorials

Council strives to maintain all of its cemeteries so as to create a pleasant, safe, peaceful and sustainable environment.

Council only allows the placement of flowers (real or artificial) onto gravesites, for the following reasons:

To meet majority established expectations for clean and tidy cemeteries

Please remember that this cemetery is for the entire community and has to meet the majority expectation for being attractive, neat and safe. While some objects may appeal to some families, others have different tastes and find them messy and unattractive, especially when there is a customer expectation that only flowers (real or artificial) will be placed on graves. This can and does cause considerable distress to families whose loved one's graves are adjacent to graves where prohibited objects are placed.

It is a Local Law requirement

Under Scenic Rim Regional Council Local Law No. 4, prohibited activities include placing on or adjacent to a grave or memorial any of the following: an article or thing other than flowers, for example a stuffed toy or pot plant; or an article or thing made from glass, for example a glass flower vase.

Cemeteries are not secured areas

It is impossible for Council to guarantee items placed in the cemetery will not be stolen or damaged.

It helps to keep the cemetery safe for visitors and staff

When Council staff are mowing or whipper snipping, prohibited items can become projectiles if they come in contact with the moving parts of machines. Objects such as glass, ceramic and terracotta are easily broken. Ornaments on sharp wires are particularly hazardous for Council staff when they are whipper snipping. It must be remembered that the cemetery needs to be a safe place for all people from children to adults.

Other objects create a maintenance burden

Other objects also have to be avoided or specifically removed and replaced to ensure adequate maintenance. This is time consuming and reduces the time that can be spent on other aspects of cemetery maintenance.

It is emotionally traumatic for Council staff to have to remove items

For staff to have to remove other objects is a highly emotive task that no one has any satisfaction in performing. Therefore, we wish to avoid the emotional trauma involved in having to do it.