

Council Controlled Cemeteries

29 October 2024

Frequently Asked Questions

What service does Council provide?

A funeral director makes arrangements with Council cemetery administrative staff to prepare a new grave site, or to re-use an existing site. Council liaises with the funeral director, gravedigger and other necessary parties. The Council cemetery contractor digs the grave and completes a standard setup (minimum of 6 seats, one 3m x 3m sun shelter and artificial turf around the grave) of the site in preparation for the burial. Council maintains records of the site number, full name and age of deceased, burial information and other pertinent details.

Do I need to phone Council to arrange anything?

No, your funeral director should organise everything for you and they will liaise with Council over the arrangements.

Who organises the plaques, headstones, monuments and bases?

Your funeral director may have the ability to organise this for you, or alternatively you may want to make enquiries directly with monumental masons. Approval for this work **must** be obtained from Council **prior** to any work commencing, by lodging an "Application for Monumental Work" form together with the prescribed fee.

Does Council organise cremations?

No. You'll need to speak to your funeral director or make enquiries at a crematorium.

Can I put a new plaque, headstone or monument on an old grave?

Yes. Discuss your requirements with a monumental mason to arrange manufacture and installation and notify Council of your intentions. An "Application for Monumental Work" must be lodged with Council prior to any installation. Grave numbers need to be embossed on all plaques/monuments.

Who is responsible for maintenance of the plaques, headstones and monuments?

Whilst Council staff endeavour to maintain the cemeteries to the highest possible standard, deceased's families are responsible for the maintenance of plaques, headstones and monuments. However, Council does provide a cleaning service for a set fee. The public are permitted to assist in keeping graves clean and tidy provided this work does not interfere with maintenance operations or alter the appearance of the area. An "Application for Monumental Work" must be lodged with Council **prior** to the removal and restoration of headstones or for major maintenance involving machinery (eg pressure cleaning).

Can plots be reserved in cemeteries?

Yes, plots can be reserved in all of Council's cemeteries, dependent upon the applicant having first degree kinship with a person already buried in a Council cemetery. Pre-need reservations are not permitted.

Can ashes be placed in graves?

The placement of ashes into grave plots is only permitted for pre-existing reserved or occupied graves or at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

Can reserved sites be sold or transferred?

The burial right for reserved sites may not be sold and are not transmissible by death.

Can I surrender a grave site?

Yes. The burial right to a grave or niche may be surrendered to Council. Upon lodgement of an "Application for Surrender of Grave Site/Niche/Ash Garden Plot", Council will pay the burial right holder (purchaser) 80% of the amount originally paid for the burial right to the grave/niche.

Is there a time limit on reserved graves?

No, all reserved graves are held by the burial right holder until occupied or surrendered.

Is there a time limit on occupied graves?

No, all occupied graves are held by the burial right holder in perpetuity.

Can a second burial occur in a grave?

Provided the first interment has occurred at sufficient depth, multiple burials in single plots are permitted and encouraged. Ideally, burial plots are of sufficient depth to accommodate the remains of two adults and one infant of not more than three years old plus up to three ash containers.

Can burials take place on weekends or public holidays?

Burials are conducted between 8am and 3:30pm Monday to Friday excluding Public Holidays. Special arrangements may be made for burials outside these times, however these will attract a surcharge.

Can I be buried in one of Council's Cemeteries if I've never lived in the Region or do not have first degree kinship with an established resident?

No. Permission for interments and all reservations in new graves in the Council controlled cemeteries will be given only in respect of a person who meets one or more of the following criteria. The person:

- Is or has been an established resident within the area of the Scenic Rim Regional Council or its predecessor Councils; or
- Has first degree kinship with established residents of the Scenic Rim Region; or
- Has first degree kinship with a person previously interred (burial or ashes) in any of Council controlled cemeteries.

If a person does not meet one of these criteria, application for a gravesite may be made in writing, for assessment by the Chief Executive Officer. Approval in this regard will only be given under exceptional circumstances.