



Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Small Business

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MORE CHOICE ON BURIALS

Minister for Primary Industries and Small Business Katrina Hodgkinson said respecting the wishes of all individuals was the key principle underpinning the NSW Government's Cemeteries and Crematoria Bill, which passed the Legislative Assembly this week.

Ms Hodgkinson said the NSW Liberals and Nationals Government is undertaking these significant reforms to ensure Sydney's burial shortage is addressed.

Under the reforms:

- no one will be forced to take the renewable tenure option;
- renewable tenure will not apply retrospectively;
- costs will remain affordable; and
- no one will be disadvantaged.

"The practice of renewable tenure has been operating in NSW since the 1990s in an unregulated manner.

"This Bill recognises that renewable tenure is not for everyone but will ensure that this practice is regulated to ensure that remains are treated with dignity and respect," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"Renewable tenure is currently provided in Sydney's Waverley Cemetery and the Sydney Natural Burial Park at Kemps Creek.

"Perpetual tenure burial will continue to be commonplace and there will be no impact on existing perpetual burial licences.

"A renewable tenure burial licence is a 99 year right for burial, which can be renewed in blocks of 25 years.

"The option of renewable tenure will extend the availability of existing cemeteries to ensure all communities have access to affordable interment options for generations to come.

"We're establishing appropriate safeguards to protect the rights of all citizens. There will be new and consistent rules for cemetery operators offering renewable rights where there currently are none.

"Projections indicate available burial sites in metropolitan Sydney will reach capacity within 30 to 40 years.

"Research shows that people wish to bury family and friends within a reasonable distance from their homes to enable regular visits.

“The NSW Liberals and Nationals Government is committed to ensuring that future generations have affordable access to a range of options for honouring the memories of their loved ones.

“Those on limited incomes are already being forced to cremate or to bury in cemeteries long distances from their homes where cemetery land is cheaper.

“Renewable tenure burial will put downward pressure on interment costs and give people the option of a traditional burial, which is currently beyond the means of some.

“The Bill will ensure that the pricing of graves will remain affordable by providing the power to purchase new land for both perpetuity and renewable tenure graves.

“We have consulted on this Bill with all major faith groups and have support from the Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Greek Orthodox and Anglican communities.

“This Bill ensures that the burial needs of all individuals are met now and into the future,” Ms Hodgkinson said.