



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Assistant Minister for Tourism and Major Events

MEDIA RELEASE

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LOTUS PAVILION PLANNED FOR MACQUARIE CEMETERY

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, has today announced a proposed Lotus Pavilion for the Macquarie Park cemetery, which will provide a multicultural alternative to the traditional chapel funeral service.

Ms Hodgkinson today inspected the site of a proposed \$800,000 pavilion at Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium, which will be constructed by the Northern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (NMCT) in northern Sydney.

“The idea for the Lotus Pavilion originated from talks between the NMCT and the Hindu community, which wanted an outdoor facility for funeral services,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“Last year the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government introduced the most significant reforms to management cemeteries and crematoria in NSW in more than 100 years.

“As part of these reforms, the NSW Government has directed all Crown cemeteries to provide for our State’s diverse and rich cultural heritage.

“So I am extremely pleased that the NMCT will shortly seek council approval to construct the Lotus Pavilion, in line with this directive.”

Minister for Citizenship and Communities, Victor Dominello, said the Lotus Pavilion is an excellent example of how the NSW Government is supporting different cultures.

“The pavilion will also cater for the Buddhist community and anyone else who would like to conduct a funeral in the outdoors, rather than in a chapel,” he said.

Ms Hodgkinson said following the passage of the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Bill 2013* through the NSW Parliament, the NMCT, led by chief executive Pauline Tritton, now includes cemeteries at Macquarie Park, Frenchs Forest Bushland, Gore Hill Memorial and Field of Mars.

“Sandgate cemetery at Newcastle will also be added to this group,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“Over the past year the management and board of the northern group have integrated financial systems and governance protocols across all their cemeteries.

“This new legislation provides a sound framework for the long-term planning and management of all cemeteries and crematoria in NSW.

“A new agency, Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW, led by an independent Board, will have oversight of new and consistent rules for cemetery operators across the private and government sectors.”

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