



Niall Blair

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Lands and Water

MEDIA RELEASE

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DECISIVE ACTION TAKEN TO SET UP ROOKWOOD CEMETERY FOR THE FUTURE

Minister for Lands and Water, Niall Blair, has announced the NSW Government will undertake a review of governance for the entire Rookwood Cemetery, the largest cemetery in the Southern Hemisphere.

Three trusts manage Rookwood Cemetery – the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, the Rookwood Necropolis Trust and the Rookwood General Cemeteries Reserve Trust.

“In 2013 the most significant reforms to the management of cemeteries and crematoria in the history of NSW were introduced – this review is the next stage of those reforms, looking at how we can best manage Rookwood Cemetery into the future,” Mr Blair said.

“I have directed Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW to oversee the review, which will consult broadly before presenting a set of recommendations on how management of Rookwood should implement the objects set out in the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2013*, and effect good governance and respectful management of Australia’s oldest multi-faith cemetery.”

Final recommendations will be provided to the NSW Government by the end of the year.

The NSW Government has also today released the report of the independent investigation into the governance and operations of Rookwood General Cemeteries Reserve Trust, one of the three trusts which manage the Rookwood Cemetery.

Jason Masters has been appointed as administrator for 12 months to manage the affairs of the Rookwood General Cemeteries Reserve Trust, ensure ongoing operations continue, and implement the NSW Government’s response to the independent investigation.

“The NSW Government supports all of the evidence-based recommendations of this thorough and independent investigation,” Mr Blair said.

“Today draws a clear line in the sand – I have taken decisive action to address community concerns and ensure that Rookwood General Cemeteries Reserve Trust is placed on a sustainable footing into the future.”

For more information on the Rookwood Cemetery governance review, or to view the Rookwood General Cemeteries Reserve Trust investigation report and NSW Government response, visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/land-and-water/cemeteries-crematoria.

MEDIA: Siobhan McCarthy | Minister Blair | 0407 791 802

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