



Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

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LANDMARK CEMETERY REFORMS PASS NSW PARLIAMENT

The first Cemeteries and Crematoria Bill in more than 100 years has passed through the NSW Parliament today, NSW Minister for Primary Industries and Small Business Katrina Hodgkinson said.

“I’m pleased the Legislative Council, including the cross benchers, voted in favour of this historic reform,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“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.

“Renewable tenure is just one aspect of a range of reforms that will make the sector operate in a more transparent manner and guaranteeing the rights of all individuals.

“Renewable tenure has already been operating in two Sydney cemeteries, Waverley Cemetery and the Sydney Natural Burial Park. It will not apply retrospectively and is one of many choices that will be made available in a regulated manner.

“Contrary to Labor’s hysterical claims, 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.

”This Government is committed to extending the life of existing cemeteries to ensure all communities have access to affordable interment options for generations to come.

“This latest move makes clear that this Government is dedicated to respecting and protecting the beliefs of all religious and cultural groups in NSW.

Ms Hodgkinson said I am pleased my Upper House colleagues resisted the scare campaign by those who wanted to thwart these important reforms.

“The opposition sat on their hands for 16 long years without taking action, in stark contrast this Government has taken the necessary reforms to address the critical burial shortage,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“Projections indicate available burial sites will reach capacity in metropolitan Sydney in 30-40 years.”