



# **Katrina Hodgkinson MP**

## **Minister for Primary Industries**

## **Minister for Small Business**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Wednesday 8 May 2013

### **6,700 EXTRA BURIAL SPACES FOR ROOKWOOD**

Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson announced today 6,700 additional burial spaces are now available for people of the Jewish and Muslim faiths at Rookwood Cemetery, to ease critical burial space shortages.

“The area known as Lot 10 has been allocated equally to Muslim and Jewish communities to secure their burial needs for the next decade,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“There is 3.9 hectares of available burial space within Lot 10, which is about the size of eight rugby league fields, following the closure of Weeroona Road within the Rookwood grounds.

“This will provide around 4,000 ‘double depth’ plots for the Muslim community and around 2,700 single plots for the Jewish community.

“This is a good medium-term solution as the Muslim community in particular has a shortage of available burial space.

“The new Muslim sites will be used immediately, whereas the Jewish sites will be used once the existing area at Rookwood is filled.

“This latest milestone is just one part of the NSW Government’s historic cemetery reforms.

“We are seeking additional burial space in the greater Sydney region for the future needs of people of all religious and cultural beliefs. Rookwood works to meet demands for each community group in Sydney and these needs are reviewed regularly.

“Lot 10 is the last major portion of land left inside Rookwood Cemetery and is under the management of the newly-formed Rookwood General Cemetery Reserve Trust which has done an excellent job in readying the burial ground.

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello congratulated the Muslim and Jewish communities for their input and leadership on this issue.

“It was vitally important for cultural and religious reasons that these plots were secured so people in these communities had some certainty around where their loved ones will be buried,” Mr Dominello said.