



Paul Toole
Minister for Lands and Forestry
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MEDIA RELEASE

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SYDNEY CEMETERY CAPACITY SURVEY RELEASED

A survey of available burial space in metropolitan Sydney has found 300,000 plots available, enough for the next 34 years, Minister for Lands Paul Toole said today.

The NSW Government has initiated preliminary work to consider the criteria for potential locations for additional cemetery space in the metropolitan area.

“It’s important that the government plans for the future to keep the option of burial affordable for generations to come. Equally important is the need to consult with the community,” Mr Toole said.

The Government has commissioned an independent review as the next step in identifying suitable locations for Sydney’s future burial needs.

The review, commissioned by Mr Toole and Planning Minister Anthony Roberts, will consider how strategic planning and community consultation processes can support the identification of future burial space.

The Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW (CCNSW) *Metropolitan Sydney Cemetery Capacity Report* predicts a shortage of burial space in Sydney by 2051 if no additional space is made available.

Sydney’s population is projected to grow from 4.68 million in 2016 to 6.42 million in 2036. The last major cemetery development in Sydney occurred in the 1960s.

CCNSW Chair Dr Stepan Kerkyasharian AO said completion of the *Metropolitan Sydney Cemetery Capacity Report* was a priority of the agency’s Strategic Plan.

“We must ensure that sufficient and suitable cemetery land is available to meet community need for interment services,” Dr Kerkyasharian said.

CCNSW will now undertake cemetery capacity surveys of other areas of NSW.

The *Metropolitan Sydney Cemetery Capacity Report* can be found at http://www.crownland.nsw.gov.au/crown_land/cemeteries

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