

Your local voice

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NEW CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM ON SOUTHSIDE, SOUTH OF MUGGA LANE

Come along to this presentation at which we will learn about the Government's plans for the new cemetery and crematorium on the Southside of Canberra.

Tom Elliott, (Executive Director, Enterprise Services, Territory & Municipal Services) and Karyn Walker, (Senior Consultant, Economic Futures Australia) will give the presentation.

If you live in Weston Creek it is most likely that the selected location of the facility will eventually have a direct or indirect impact on you. Find out about the design of this facility as well as the Government's landscaping and water conservation plans. Find out about or raise any ecological or wildlife issues.

WHERE – The Weston Club, 1 Liardet St, Weston

WHEN - Wednesday 29 July 2009 at 7.30 pm
(tea, coffee and biscuits provided)

Join us. This is your opportunity to play a role in this development and to be informed about it.



Fact Sheet #1

Proposal for a new southern cemetery in the ACT Frequently Asked Questions

The ACT Public Cemeteries Authority has identified the need for a new cemetery to cater for the future needs of the ACT. On 6 February 2009, the ACT Government agreed to a proposal from the Authority to explore the options in determining a site for a new cemetery in the ACT. The ACT Government and project consultants are now undertaking a community consultation program to gauge public opinion on the development of a new cemetery, its location and the services the community would want a cemetery to provide.

Why is there a need for a new cemetery in the ACT?

A new cemetery takes a significant amount of time to plan and construct. It is important that discussions begin now so that decisions can be made well ahead of the time when a new cemetery for the ACT is needed.

There are currently three cemeteries in the ACT – Gungahlin Cemetery, Woden Cemetery and a smaller cemetery in Hall. The Woden Cemetery, located in the south of Canberra, is filling up. There are approximately 1500 burial allotments remaining and the average number of allotments occupied each year is 200. This means all available allotments are likely to be filled within eight years.

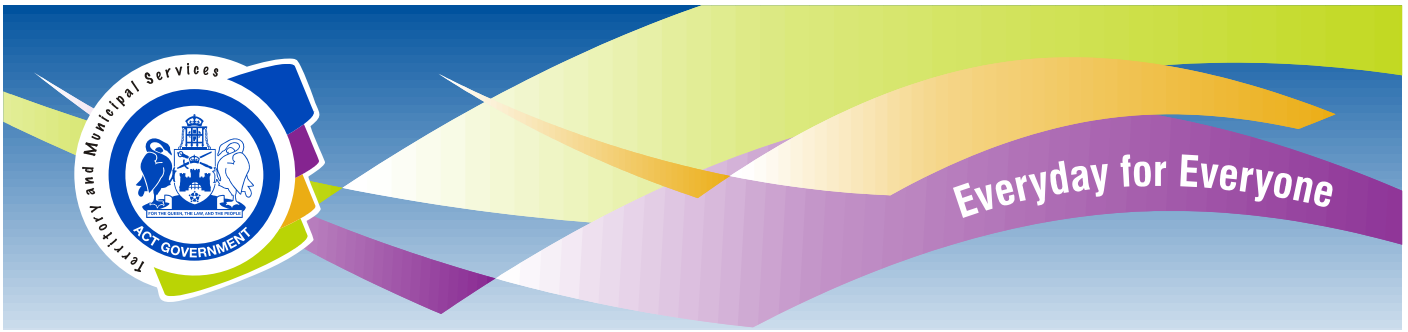
Once the Woden Cemetery is at capacity, a new cemetery will be needed to service southern Canberra.

What services could be offered if a new cemetery is developed?

Cemeteries in the ACT offer the community a range of options. These include:

- Conventional headstone burials – a traditional option featuring granite, marble or concrete headstones and bases
- Lawn burials – feature bronze plaques on granite or concrete bases on the grave at ground level and raised headstones
- Garden burials (family estates) – allotments sold in pairs - up to four around a central garden
- Mausoleum (above ground crypts) – Mausoleums are buildings with spaces or burial chambers for coffins, usually above ground
- Memorials for cremated remains – Ashes can be placed in family graves, specially designed walls, under and around trees or in specially designated garden beds.

Community Engagement



Fact Sheet #1

While there is a strong need for the services that cemeteries in the ACT have traditionally offered, there is also growing interest in alternate services such as natural burial (see 'Frequently Asked Questions – Natural Burials' fact sheet).

Many modern-day cemeteries, nationally and internationally, also include crematoria services. There are approximately 90 crematoria in Australia, one for every 245,000 population, but only one in the ACT.

All of these options are open for discussion and for potential inclusion in a new southern cemetery.

Where would a new cemetery be located?

As Woden Cemetery is soon to reach full capacity a new cemetery would ideally be located in southern Canberra. While a number of sites in southern Canberra have been considered for a new cemetery in the ACT, one site has been assessed as the most suitable. This site is located on the southern side of the intersection of Mugga Lane and Long Gully Road (encompassing Block 1676 and parts of Block 1677 Tuggeranong District).

Why was the current site chosen as the preferred option?

According to the ACT Public Cemeteries Authority this preferred site meets many of the siting criteria for a cemetery. Siting criteria include:

- Suitable land classification under the Territory Plan (Broad acre)
- Proximity to main roads
- Able to accommodate separate or large exit/entrance
- Minimum site of 40 hectares
- Topography (predominately flat)
- Buffer zone (minimum 20 metre buffer around burial areas)
- Large traffic capacity/access to accommodate large cortege
- Consistent subsoil not containing large areas of rock
- Able to withstand rigorous mass soil movement
- Outside 100 year flood zone
- Low water tables desirable (ideally minimum three metres)
- Access to services (water, electricity and gas)
- Access to public transport
- Access to water and potential for capturing runoff in dams

Community Engagement



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How can I be involved with the consultation process?

The ACT Public Cemeteries Authority and ACT Government held meetings with representatives from key stakeholder groups to seek input to the consultation process during March 2009. A comprehensive community consultation program commenced on 30 March 2009 with a random telephone survey of 1,000 residents.

There are a variety of ways that the community can contribute to the consultation. These include:

- Completing a community survey either online on the Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) website or a hard copy survey which can be picked up from all ACT Government Canberra Connect Shopfronts and ACT Public Libraries;
- Collecting information fact sheets from any ACT Government Canberra Connect Shopfront or ACT Public Library or online;
- Viewing information displays throughout the consultation period; and
- Attending a community information session.

To complete the survey or for more information visit www.tams.act.gov.au, or drop into a Canberra Connect Shopfront or your nearest ACT Public Library.

Submissions for the community survey close on Friday 22 May 2009.

After the first round of public consultation a discussion paper will be produced and released for further comment.

For more information on ACT Cemeteries please visit www.canberracemeteries.com.au.

Community Engagement