



VARROVILLE CROWN CEMETERY DEVELOPMENT TO PROCEED

15 July 2019

The NSW Independent Planning Commission has today directed the Sydney Western City Planning Panel (Planning Panel) to approve a development application to establish a multi-denominational cemetery at Varroville.

The Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (Applicant) had sought approval from Campbelltown City Council in 17 October 2017 to develop a 136,000 burial plot cemetery to be developed over four stages.

The Applicant referred the development application to the Minister under 4.33 (5) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (Act).

The Minister delegated to the Commission his function under Division 4.6 of the Act to provide a direction to the Planning Panel. The Commission referred the development application to the then Department of Planning and Environment for further assessment.

Chair of Commission, Mary O’Kane, appointed Dianne Leeson, Adrian Pilton and Ross Carter to consider the Project and to direct the Planning Panel. The Commissioners met with the Applicant, the Department, Campbelltown City Council and the Greater Sydney Commission. They also inspected the project site and surrounding area and held a public meeting in Leumeah to listen to the community’s views on the proposed cemetery.

After considering all the material before the Commission, including the community’s views, the Commission has today (Monday 15 July 2019) directed the Planning Panel to approve the development application subject to conditions.

The Commission finds that the Application is in the public interest because:

- *“it will address a need for additional cemetery space, as identified in the MSCC Report and is in close proximity to identified urban growth areas and transport options*
- *the potential impacts to European heritage values, including the Varroville Homestead and the environment have been minimised through site design and layout and are likely to result in positive and improved outcome and management strategy for the surrounding landscape and outbuildings*
- *approximately 36 hectares of publicly accessible open space will be provided*
- *significant areas of weed infested and degraded lands will be actively managed, improving local ecological communities and enhancing the Scenic Hills area*

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- *any residual impacts, including from changes to traffic patterns and acoustic environment, can be appropriately managed by the imposition and implementation of relevant conditions of consent."*

The Commission's Statement of Reasons for Decision can be read in full here:

<https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2018/06/crematoria-development>

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