



WALLACIA CROWN CEMETERY DEVELOPMENT NOT TO PROCEED

12 July 2019

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

The Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (Applicant) had sought approval from Penrith City Council in 3 November 2017 to develop a 88,000 burial plot cemetery to be developed over three 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, and Penrith City Council. They also inspected the project site and surrounding area and held a public meeting in Wallacia 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 (Friday 12 July 2019) directed Planning Panel to refuse the development application.

The Commission finds that:

- *“the key impacts of the Application on the natural and built environment including visual amenity, traffic and access, soil and contamination, biodiversity and flooding and stormwater can be managed and or mitigated to an acceptable level*
- *the Application will have significant social impacts on the community, specifically it will have a permanent impact on the existing local character of the village of Wallacia and the community’s sense of place*
- *there are issues around the suitability of the Site. Specifically, the proposed scale of the development is too large in the context of the locality being the village of Wallacia and the Site is relatively removed from the population base it is proposed to serve (catchment area) and is not easily accessible via public transport*

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- *the proposed benefits associated with publicly accessible open space are unlikely to be realised by the local community*
- *the Application will limit the opportunity for alternate uses of the land specifically those that are more consistent with existing character of Wallacia, may that be for recreation or other another use, and*
- *the Application will provide for public benefit including the provision of burial space and the rehabilitation of Jerry's Creek, however on balance it is not in the public interest given the unsuitability of the Site and social impacts that cannot be mitigated and have not been addressed by the Applicant."*

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

<https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2018/06/crown-cemetery-and-crematoria-development--wallacia-and-varroville>

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