

4 April 2019

Independent Planning Commission
Level 3
201 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

**Crown Cemetery Development Varroville
Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (CMCT)**

We are writing to object to the development proposal for the construction and operation of a cemetery at Varroville by the CMCT. Our reasons follow.

1. Having quietly obtained a spot rezoning of the property in 2017, the Catholic Church and its agent, the CMCT, says that despite its environmental and heritage significance, the development is necessary because there will be a shortage of burial and cremation areas by 2025. This is not correct. The accepted timeline for the south western region is in the order of three decades, not six years.
2. It is opposed by the entire community, as well as Campbelltown Council and the Scenic Hills Association.
3. The historical value of the site, undisturbed, will benefit generations to come. The website of the Office of Environment & Heritage describes in detail the history and significance of the property as an:

"...early farm estate dating from 1810 with early structures, 1850s homestead, layout, agricultural (vineyard) terracing/trenching and evidence of early access road. The remnant estate with its landscape and integral estate core, rare and innovative features, early establishment, substantial intactness as a cultural landscape and important colonial associations; is of significant state heritage value."

That office also describes Varroville *"as rare as one of the few larger estate landscapes remaining in the Campbelltown area where the form of the original grant and the former agricultural use of the estate and its rural landscape character can be appreciated."*

A full description by the Office of Environment & Heritage is at -
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5063550>

4. The historical value of Varroville will be lost forever if this application is approved, even in part. The proposal is quite simply, extraordinary. It is brought by a property developer, to make money at the expense of the people in the area and the people of NSW generally. The CMCT says it is a non-profit organisation, however, it currently operates five other cemeteries in the Greater Western Sydney region. A perusal of the charges for the plots and services provided in these cemeteries (see the CMCT website) shows just how much money is being made. At the Liverpool Cemetery, for example, it charges \$375.90 an hour for use of the chapel, as well as a late fee. A "monument package" for one person is available for \$12,741.10 as a lawn grave and \$19,462.90 for an "Asian Section Grave". See the attached. There is no reason to think similar charges will not be made at Varroville. It is clear the CMCT will make a great deal of money from this exercise.
5. We commend to you the description of this unique property on the website of the Office of Environment & Heritage and the Curtilage Study Varroville, May 2016 by Orwell & Peter Phillips. Similarly we commend to you the letter from Geoffrey Britton dated 19 March 2019 to Jacqui and Peter Gibbs. The detailed reasons they provide are cogent and irrefutable.

This application should be rejected, otherwise a priceless part of Australia's heritage will be destroyed, for private profit. The Catholic Church, acting through its agent, the CMCT, and their political allies, is behaving like a bully. The CMCT is not serving the present and future needs of the residents of Sydney by making this application. It is merely intending to opportunistically gouge money from that community, and without being accountable for it. It should not be allowed to do so.

Yours faithfully

Paul and Lindsay Blackburn-Hart



CEMETERY FEES

Prices are effective as of 15 August 2018. Prices subject to change without notice.

Right of Interment	FEE	GST	TOTAL	
Plaque Lawn Grave	\$8,879.55	\$887.95	\$9,767.50	
Lawn Grave	\$11,582.82	\$1,158.28	\$12,741.10	
Monumental Section Grave	\$11,268.18	\$1,126.82	\$12,395.00	
Baby Lawn Grave (0-1 Years)	\$2,207.00	\$220.70	\$2,427.70	
Children's Grave (1-12 Years) includes interment	\$3,189.27	\$318.93	\$3,508.20	
Asian Section Grave	\$17,693.55	\$1,769.35	\$19,462.90	
Interment Fees	FEE	GST	STATE LEVY	TOTAL
Weekday Adult – 1st Burial Interment	\$2,521.64	\$252.16	\$82.00	\$2,855.80
Weekday Adult – 2 nd /3 rd Burial Interment	\$2,521.64	\$252.16	\$59.40	\$2,833.20
Saturday Adult - 1st Burial Interment	\$2,801.64	\$280.16	\$82.00	\$3,163.80
Saturday Adult - 2 nd /3 rd Burial Interment	\$2,801.64	\$280.16	\$59.40	\$3,141.20
Weekday Child (0-12 Yrs) Burial Interment	\$1,251.00	\$125.10	N/A	\$1,376.10
Saturday Child (0-12 Yrs) Burial Interment	\$1,561.82	\$156.18	N/A	\$1,718.00
Weekday Adult – 1st Above Ground Interment	\$2,183.64	\$218.36	\$82.00	\$2,484.00
Weekday Adult – 2 nd /3 rd Above Ground Interment	\$2,183.64	\$218.36	\$59.40	\$2,461.40
Saturday Adult - 1st Above Ground Interment	\$2,483.27	\$248.33	\$82.00	\$2,813.60
Saturday Adult - 2 nd /3 rd Above Ground Interment	\$2,483.27	\$248.33	\$59.40	\$2,791.00
Weekday Child (0-12 Yrs) Above Ground Interment	\$1,081.55	\$108.15	N/A	\$1,189.70
Saturday Child (0-12 Yrs) Above Ground Interment	\$1,273.45	\$127.35	N/A	\$1,400.80
Cremated Remains Interment	\$648.00	\$64.80	\$24.70	\$737.50
Other Fees	FEE	GST	TOTAL	
Use of Chapel (1 Hour)	\$341.73	\$34.17	\$375.90	
Additional ½ Hour Chapel Time	\$207.91	\$20.79	\$228.70	
Late Fee (Every 30 minute interval or part thereof)	\$337.09	\$33.71	\$370.80	
2 Hour Condolence Room Hire (Monday – Friday)	\$341.73	\$34.17	\$375.90	
2 Hour Condolence Room Hire (Saturday)	\$563.73	\$56.37	\$620.10	
Slab Removal	\$496.27	\$49.63	\$545.90	
Concrete and Chip break in and repair	\$758.45	\$75.85	\$834.30	



CREMATION FEES

Prices are effective as of 15 August 2018. Prices subject to change without notice.

Cremation Fees	FEE	GST	STATE LEVY	TOTAL
Weekday Adult Cremation	\$1,231.36	\$123.14	\$24.70	\$1,379.20
Saturday Adult Cremation	\$1,737.00	\$173.70	\$24.70	\$1,935.40
Weekday No Service No Attendance Cremation	\$711.64	\$71.16	\$24.70	\$807.50
Saturday No Service No Attendance Cremation	\$1,170.45	\$117.05	\$24.70	\$1,312.20
Weekday Pre Paid Cremation Fee	\$965.27	\$96.53	\$24.70	\$1,086.50
Weekday Stillborn – 1 Year Cremation	\$381.18	\$38.12	N/A	\$419.30
Saturday Stillborn – 1 Year Cremation	\$840.00	\$84.00	N/A	\$924.00
Weekday Child 1 Year – 12 Years Cremation	\$697.64	\$69.76	N/A	\$767.40
Saturday Child 1 Year – 12 Years Cremation	\$1,156.45	\$115.65	N/A	\$1,272.10
Other Fees	FEE	GST	TOTAL	
Use of Chapel Only (1 Hour)	\$341.73	\$34.17	\$375.90	
Additional ½ Hour Chapel Time	\$207.91	\$20.79	\$228.70	
Late Fee (Every 30 minute interval or part thereof)	\$337.09	\$33.71	\$370.80	
Cremation Memorials	FEE	GST	TOTAL	
Niche Walls	\$1,823.34	\$179.86	\$2,003.20	
Harmony and Memorial Rose Gardens				
Single Site	\$1,823.34	\$179.86	\$2,003.20	
Double Site	\$3,544.49	\$349.51	\$3,894.00	
Crypt Rose Garden				
Single Site	\$2,923.52	\$289.88	\$3,213.40	
Double Site	\$5,481.76	\$543.24	\$6,025.00	
Reflection Niche Garden Package	\$1,560.15	\$153.55	\$1,713.70	
Reflection Garden Cremation Package	\$2,545.63	\$254.57	\$2,800.20	
Waterway Garden Package	\$5,637.22	\$558.78	\$6,196.00	
Family Memorial Estates	\$18,035.27	\$1803.53	\$19,838.80	



ABOVE GROUND FEES

Prices are effective as of 15 August 2018. Prices subject to change without notice.

Right of Interment	FEE	GST	TOTAL
Mary Mackillop Double Crypt	\$50,234.00	\$5,023.40	\$55,257.40
Mount Carmel Mausoleum Double Crypt	\$53,072.18	\$5,307.22	\$58,379.40
Gallery of Angels Double Crypt	\$57,922.55	\$5,792.25	\$63,714.80
Padre Pio Level 1 Single Crypt Package	\$28,247.45	\$2,816.55	\$31,064.00
Padre Pio Level 2 Single Crypt Package	\$32,653.00	\$3,257.10	\$35,910.10
Padre Pio Level 3 Single Crypt Package	\$28,247.45	\$2,816.55	\$31,064.00
Padre Pio Level 4 Single Crypt Package	\$26,007.64	\$2,592.56	\$28,600.20
Padre Pio Vault Package	\$138,580.18	\$13,825.22	\$152,405.40

Prices listed are for single crypt packages. For double crypt packages please double the value.