



12 March 2019

Ms Jacqui Kirkby  
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Dear Ms Kirkby

I refer to your letters dated 1 March and 6 March 2019, in relation to the Commission's consideration of Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust's (CMCT) Crown development application for a new cemetery and parklands at Varroville (i.e. Varroville Crown Cemetery Development).

I note your concerns regarding the conduct of the Varroville Heritage Review, which was finalised by a separate Panel of the Commission last month. As you are aware these matters are separate and must be treated as such by the Commission. Any information in relation to the Varroville Heritage Review matter is available on the Commission's website.

The Commission will proceed with its consideration of the Varroville Crown Cemetery Development. As an independent agency and a consent authority in its own right, the Commission is not affected by the NSW Government's caretaker provisions.

### Site Visit

As you are aware, the Commission conducted a site inspection of the proposed cemetery and parklands site at Varroville on Tuesday 19 February 2019. The purpose of the site inspection was to provide the Commission with an opportunity to view the physical attributes of the project site and its locality, not solely to assess the site's heritage, as your letter suggests. The site inspection is not a forum for persons to make comments and submission to the Commission.

I'm comfortable that the site inspection was organised and carried out in accordance with the Commission's [Site Inspection and Locality Tour Guidelines](#). A written record of the Site Inspection and Locality Tour is available on the Commission's website: [www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au).

### Meetings and Submissions

The Commission met with CMCT and the Department of Planning and Environment regarding the Varroville Crown Cemetery Development on Thursday 14 February 2019. Transcripts of those meetings were made available on the Commission's website on 27 February 2019.

A public meeting regarding the Varroville Crown Cemetery Development is scheduled to be held at Lakeside Golf Club, Gledswood Hills, from 9am on Monday 25 March 2019. This meeting is an opportunity for the Commission Panel to hear the views of interested individuals and groups in relation to the development.

Additionally, written comments on the development will be accepted by the Commission up to one week after the public meeting (i.e. Monday 1 April 2019).

For more information about our public meetings, please refer to the Commission's [Public Meeting Guidelines](#).

Following the public meeting and on review of any written comments received, the Commission may decide to undertake a further site inspection or locality tour.

Your correspondence, dated 1 March 2019 and 6 March 2019, will be treated as formal submissions and the matters raised will be carefully considered by the Commission in assessing the merits of the development.

Your letter of 1 March 2019 raises suggestions of bias. I would like to assure you that the Commission takes its role and independence very seriously and is committed to ensuring fairness and impartiality.

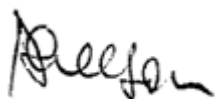
### **Curtilage Study**

In relation to the treatment of the *Curtilage Study Varro Ville by Orwell & Peter Phillips*, dated May 2016, as requested in your letter of 6 March 2019, the Commission will now take the following step and put a notice on its website that states:

If you wish to review the study titled *Curtilage Study Varro Ville by Orwell & Peter Phillips*, dated May 2016 (the Study), please contact the Commission at [ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au) or (02) 9383 2100. The Study will be provided on a 'view only basis' to lawyers and heritage advisers of interested parties at the Commission's offices at Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000. Please Note: No copies of the Study are to be made. The Study will be available until Friday 22 March 2019.

If you have any further enquiries, I have asked Ms Diana Mitchell, Principal Planning Officer, (02) 9383 2100, to liaise with you directly on my behalf.

Yours sincerely



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**Dianne Leeson**  
**Commissioner**