



21 March 2019

Mr David Hoy  
Regional Director – Urbis  
Tower 2, Level 23 Darling Park  
201 Sussex Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Hoy

I write in response to your letter, dated 19 March 2019, regarding the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust's (CMCT) Crown development applications (DAs) for new cemeteries and parklands at Varroville and Wallacia.

I acknowledge your client's concerns about the NSW Government's request for the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) to provide advice and recommendations on the strategic planning considerations for the provision of new cemeteries – in relation to these DAs, which are currently being considered by the Independent Planning Commission.

As you're aware, the Commission wrote to the Department of Planning & Environment on 27 February this year about whether the GSC's work would have any implications for the Department's assessment of the proposed Macarthur Memorial Park, Varroville, and Wallacia Memorial Park, Wallacia.

In a response to the Commission, dated 13 March 2019, Ms Anthea Sargeant, Executive Director – Key Sites and Industry Assessments, Department of Planning & Environment, provided the following advice:

*“Consistent with the Premier's request to the Greater Sydney Commission, I can confirm the Department's assessment of the proposed cemeteries at Varroville and Wallacia considers the strategic context of the proposals based on the information currently available...”*

*The Department understands the Greater Sydney Commission's review will consider the broader strategic needs for locating cemeteries and will not examine in detail the suitability of individual sites. As the review is yet to be completed, the Department is not in a position to comment on whether or not the Greater Sydney Commission's review will contain anything that might be relevant to the Department's assessment of the cemeteries. The Department understands this review will be completed mid-year.*

*As such, it will be up to the Independent Planning Commission to determine if it has sufficient information to finalise its recommendations on these proposals.”*

The Commission, as an independent agency, is proceeding with its consideration of both DAs. The public meetings for each project will go ahead next week.

As part of its assessment of the DAs, the Commission will also seek a meeting with the GSC as soon as practicable.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SM', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Sam McLean**  
**Executive Director – Secretariat**

cc Ms Dianne Leeson (Panel Chair)