

Fact Sheet



Do I need to use a coffin?

No. This cemetery follows the principles of internationally recognised 'green-burial' or 'natural earth' burial. You are not obliged to use a coffin, seen as wasteful to some. You may choose to be buried wrapped simply in a shroud of biodegradable cotton. This ensures your body is in close contact with the earth and that decomposition of the body is quick and natural.

To be buried without a coffin currently requires approval by the NSW Department of Health. Our staff can assist you or your family in this matter.

If you are establishing a pre-need burial reservation, sign an exemption application form which we will lodge with the Department of Health and hold the approval on file for you. Click [here](#) to look at the coffin exemption document.

If you choose to use a coffin it must be made from natural organic materials such as plantation timber or woven wicker. Recycled cardboard is highly recommended.

Why are normal coffins not permitted in the Bushland Cemetery?

Normal coffins are made from chipboard (MDF) which is comprised of unknown timber and other synthetic organic compounds such as glues. These glues contain formaldehyde and other toxic volatile and environmentally persistent organic compounds. When the coffin breaks down these compounds are released into the immediate environment. Some travel away with the natural water flow or seep to the soil surface and are released as gas. Other environmentally persistent organic compounds bind to the surrounding soils and remain toxic for decades.

How will the grave be marked for future reference?

The Bushland Cemetery uses no traditional or formal headstones. In fact there is no obligation to use a headstone at all. The only type of grave marker allowed is a monument stone, obtained from the Lismore City Council quarry. This rock will, if the family chooses, bear a cast bronze plaque detailing the epitaph details of the interred. The cemetery does not use relocated natural bush-rock as it is classified as a key-threatening process under the respective legislation. These rocks are important to the endemic fauna as they are used for shelter and egg laying sites.

You may select your monument stone from a stock of suitable stones at the cemetery site. Our staff will install the stone in alignment with the grave and the plaque will be fitted soon after.

We take very accurate survey details of the grave boundary and the direction the grave faces. This will be recorded on a cemetery map. A copy of this map and GPS coordinates of the grave can be provided on request.

Where can the funeral service be held?

Funeral services can be held anywhere within the grounds of the cemetery or within the outdoor service area of the crematorium known as Gummifera Gardens. This name originates from the original Latin species *Corymbia intermedia*, the mid-level gum trees surrounding this area and growing within the Bushland Cemetery. If it is raining you can use the crematorium chapel for the service.

If you choose to hold your service at the grave, our staff will mow a section of the surrounding grasses to ensure the safety of bereaved attendees. We can also provide marquee covers and seating.

Why bushland burial rather than conventional lawn cemetery or cremation?

Cremation is a convenient method for conducting a funeral, but it is costly in respect of natural resources and the impact upon the environment.

Cremation discharges large amounts of CO₂ and other toxic substances such as dioxins and heavy metals like mercury.

Studies conducted by consultants engaged by the Centennial Park Authority (SA) also confirmed that cremation contributes an average of 160kg CO₂ to the atmosphere for each cremation. This study also revealed that in the life span of a conventional cemetery, burial in such was an even greater contributor of CO₂C due to repetitive maintenance.

Will it cost more for burial in the Bushland Cemetery?

No. The Bushland cemetery does not require extensive and repetitive maintenance compared to a conventional lawn cemetery. No lawns will be mowed or roses maintained. There is also no need for extensive roadways and other development infrastructure. The lower cost of development and maintenance will be passed on to the consumer of the services offered by this cemetery. There still remains some maintenance of the site relating to weed and bio-mass accumulation management.

Can I plant a tree upon the grave of my loved one?

No. We understand the desire of people to see life blossom from death and the desire to have a living monument of their life, however this is not healthy for the cemetery ecosystem.

If each grave had a monument tree then the open forest vegetation pattern would alter drastically and result in the suppression of natural undergrowth grasses and adjoining monument trees. It is a part of the vegetation management plan for this site to ensure that the mature gum trees are not interfered with in any way. They form an integral part of the cemetery ecosystem by supporting fauna such as koala and possum and also feeding native birds.

Can I dig and later back-fill the grave for my dearly departed?

Yes. However, for risk management reasons, only if the grave is single depth. For those not physically able to dig the entire grave we can complete the dig for you.

How do I arrange for burial in this cemetery?

If a loved one has just died, or you wish to prepare for your own burial, it's very simple. Phone us on 1300 87 83 87. We will arrange for one of our staff to contact you and answer any questions you may have.