

Fact Sheet #3

Proposal for a new southern cemetery in the ACT Frequently Asked Questions – Alternative Sites

The ACT Public Cemeteries Authority has identified the need for a new cemetery to cater for the future needs of the ACT. On 6 February 2009, the ACT Government agreed to a proposal from the Authority to explore the options in determining a site for a new cemetery in the ACT. The ACT Government and project consultants are now undertaking a community consultation program to gauge public opinion on the development of a new cemetery, its location and the services it could provide.

Has a site been identified for a new cemetery?

As Woden Cemetery is soon to reach full capacity a new cemetery would ideally be located in southern Canberra.

In recent years, the ACT Public Cemeteries Authority and the ACT Government have investigated a number of potential cemetery sites. These include:

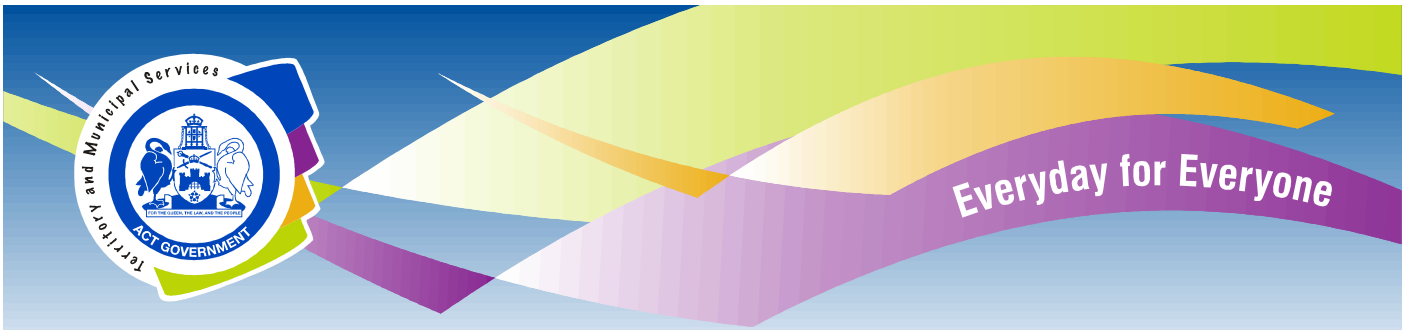
- Part of Block 1677 (corner of Monaro Highway and Isabella Drive)
- Part of Block 154 Jerrabomberra
- Greenway (west of Rowland Crescent between the Murrumbidgee River and the Town Centre)
- Block 1676 and parts of Block 1677 Tuggeranong District (southern side of the intersection of Mugga Lane and Long Gully Road)

The site located near Mugga Lane and Long Gully Road has been identified by the ACT Public Cemeteries Authority as the most suitable, as assessed against siting criteria, to proceed with further evaluation.

Why was the current site identified as the preferred option?

The site, located on the southern side of the intersection of Mugga Lane and Long Gully Road (Block 1676 and parts of Block 1677 Tuggeranong District), has been identified by the ACT Public Cemeteries Authority as the preferred

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site for a new cemetery in the ACT. A preliminary assessment has indicated that this site is the 'best fit' with the siting criteria.

Siting criteria include:

- Suitable land classification under the Territory Plan (Broad acre)
- Proximity to main roads
- Able to accommodate separate or large exit/entrance
- Minimum site of 40 hectares
- Topography (predominately flat)
- Buffer zone (minimum 20 metre buffer around burial areas)
- Large traffic capacity/access to accommodate a large cortege
- Consistent subsoil not containing large areas of rock
- Able to withstand rigorous mass soil movement
- Outside 100 year flood zone
- Low water tables desirable (ideally minimum three metres)
- Access to services (water, electricity and gas)
- Potential for to public transport
- Access to water and potential for capturing runoff in dams

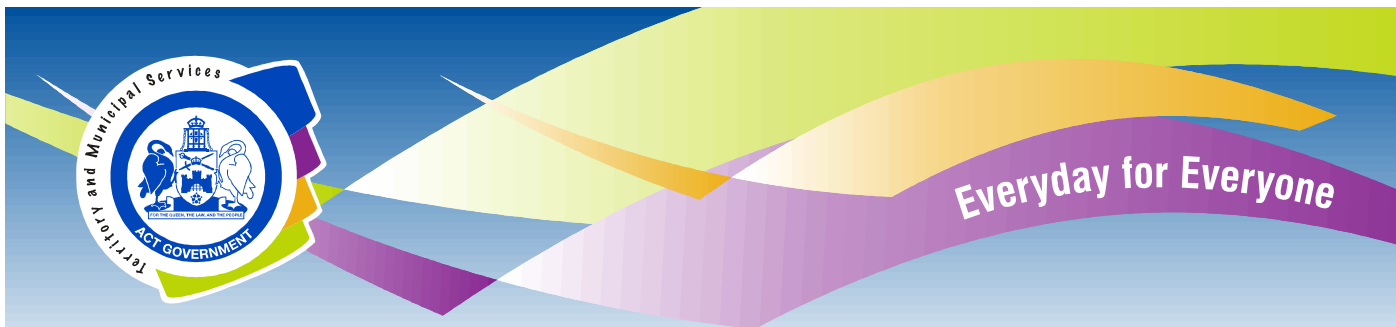
A full feasibility study will be undertaken on the establishment of a cemetery, and possibly a crematorium, if the concept is supported by the community.

What is the planning process for a cemetery?

All proposed developments are assessed by the ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA) in accordance with the *Planning and Development Act 2007* and the Territory Plan.

For more information on the development assessment process visit www.actpla.act.gov.au

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How can I be involved with the consultation process?

The ACT Public Cemeteries Authority and ACT Government held meetings with representatives from key stakeholder groups to seek input to the consultation process during March 2009. A comprehensive community consultation program commenced on 30 March 2009 with a random telephone survey of 1,000 residents.

There are a variety of ways that the community can contribute to the consultation. These include:

- Completing a community survey either online on the Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) website or a hard copy survey which can be picked up from all ACT Government Canberra Connect Shopfronts and ACT Public Libraries;
- Collecting information fact sheets from any ACT Government Canberra Connect Shopfront or ACT Public Library or online;
- Viewing information displays throughout the consultation period; and
- Attending a community information session.

To complete the survey or for more information visit www.tams.act.gov.au, or drop into a Canberra Connect Shopfront or your nearest ACT Public Library.

Submissions for the community survey close on Friday 22 May 2009.

After the first round of public consultation a discussion paper will be produced and released for further comment.

For more information on ACT Cemeteries please visit www.canberracemeteries.com.au.

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