
**NEW CEMETERY MASTERPLAN COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE MURRAY ROOM ON
WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2026 COMMENCING AT 5:08 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Jenny Ellis (Chair), Councillor Mark Dal Bon, Wendy Collis (Community Representative)

Via Zoom: Anthony Kidman (Community Representative), Peter Woodward (Community Representative)

Via Telephone: Virginia Tropeano (Community Representative)

Absent: Bruno Guidolin (Community Representative), Jake Hubbard (Community Representative), Daniel Calabro (Community Representative)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King, Parks & Gardens Manager, Peter Craig and Minute Taker, Jessica Bertacco

1 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Pamela Kensett-Smith.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Wendy Collis and Councillor Dal Bon that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 April 2026, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

Peter Woodward entered the meeting via Zoom at 5:17 pm.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

Councillor Dal Bon expressed his concerns questioning the availability and future capacity of the existing cemetery, including reserved and prepaid burial sites and underground vaults. It was clarified that once a site or vault has been reserved or purchased, it is considered unavailable, regardless of whether it is currently occupied.

Councillor Ellis noted the importance of monitoring remaining cemetery capacity and estimating the years of burial space available to inform future planning and that further consideration will occur as part of the New Cemetery Master Plan.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

Members making a pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members making a significant non-pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members making a less than significant non-pecuniary interest declaration may stay in the meeting and participate in the debate and vote on the matter.

There were no less than significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 REQUEST FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COMMISSION HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION INTO THOMAS MICHAEL MACNAMARRA AND “CLANCY OF THE OVERFLOW”

The Committee discussed the historical investigation into Thomas McNamara and his possible connection to *Clancy of the Overflow*. Members supported exploring opportunities to present the historical information through the Tourism Hub, interpretive material and potential cemetery tours, while acknowledging that the connection remains subject to historical interpretation.

Peter Woodward left the meeting at 5:23 pm.

The Committee agreed to invite a representative from the Tourism Hub to a future meeting to provide information on potential tourism and educational opportunities. It was noted that any proposed signage or plaque would require appropriate consideration of next-of-kin notification and community consultation.

RECOMMENDED on the motion that Virginia Tropeano and Wendy Collis that the Committee invite a representative from the Griffith Tourism Hub to attend a future Committee meeting to discuss opportunities associated with the Thomas McNamara Story and potential initiatives.

CL02 CONSTRUCTION OF BELOW GROUND VAULTS

The Committee noted the report regarding the construction of below-ground vaults, including the comparative costs of precast vaults and the current brick and cast-in-situ construction method.

It was noted that the current construction method provides the required structural strength through cast-in-situ concrete, with brickwork providing the internal lining. The use of precast vaults would involve additional costs associated with crane hire and installation.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Wendy Collis and Councillor Dal Bon that the information be received.

CL03 REVIEW OF THE NEW CEMETERY MASTERPLAN 2020

The Committee reviewed the draft Master Plan for the proposed new cemetery site. Mr King noted that the 2020 Master Plan was considered but not formally endorsed.

Members discussed the proposed layout and staging, access and traffic arrangements, noise, utility services, soil conditions and opportunities for modern infrastructure. It was confirmed that Council owns the site and that investigations have confirmed suitable soil conditions.

Further investigations were identified as required, including a site survey, traffic and noise assessments, and further design work.

Mr King advised that previous funding was used to prepare the original Master Plan. The new cemetery development is included in the Long-Term Financial Plan, subject to future annual budget adoption. It was noted that the previously proposed crematorium component would no longer be required following the approval of private crematorium providers.

The Committee agreed that an on-site inspection would assist in assessing site conditions, access and layout options and inform further consideration of the Master Plan. It was agreed that the on-site meeting would take place at 3:30 pm Thursday 19 November 2026.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

The report was noted.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the New Cemetery Masterplan Committee is to be held on 19 November 2026 after the on-site meeting.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 6:11 pm.