

E3.6 PLANNING FOR BURIAL SPACE

One of the support service needs generated by urban settlement is for cemeteries and crematoria. This is not well recognised because of the legacy inherited by the actions of past generations. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries government played an active role in establishing cemeteries. No new large Crown cemeteries have been established in the Sydney Region since the Frenchs Forest Bushland Cemetery in 1937. Private facilities established outside urban areas have been absorbed in recent times, such as Pine Grove Memorial Park in western Sydney and Castlebrook Lawn Cemetery in the north west.

Availability of burial space for various communities and locations varies widely across the Sydney Region. Some operational cemeteries or sectors within them are nearing exhaustion while many others have only enough burial space for less than 20 years. There is need for strategic planning to ensure adequate burial space is available to meet long term needs.

Land currently available is not being used in the most sustainable way thus options should be pursued to slow the reduction in capacity. It is appropriate that opportunities to establish new cemeteries be considered in strategic planning in the Sydney Region, particularly in recognition of competing pressures from other land uses. To facilitate this planning the first step is for site selection criteria to be established.

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The Department of Planning with the Department of Lands to establish site selection criteria for new cemeteries in the Sydney Region to be used in assessment of opportunities for identifying future sites in strategic planning.

The Department of Lands has lead responsibility for the State Government's roles in the supply and management of burial space. The Department of Planning will work with the Department of Lands and representatives of the funeral industry to establish site selection criteria for land use planning that can be applied in strategic planning at the regional, subregional and local government level.

E4 PROTECT VALUABLE RURAL ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCE LANDS

The South West Subregion contains a diverse range of agricultural industry. It ranges from hydroponics in glasshouses, through intensive livestock, broad acre cropping, intensive cropping (including irrigation), horticulture, to extensive grazing. These are significant contributors to the regional economy and are also important in terms of lifestyle and community identity.

The South West Subregion also contains valuable mineral and extractive resources including construction materials. Mineral production in the Sydney Region for 2003–04 was valued at over \$1.2 billion. The majority of this can be attributed to the value of coal production from the Southern Coalfields that is largely within the South West Subregion.

The production of construction materials and industrial minerals (such as clays, dimension stone and construction sand) in the subregion is also very important. The proximity of construction materials to their markets benefits the consumer and community in general by minimising the freight and environmental costs of transport. The subregion also includes a developing coal seam methane gas industry which has the potential to make a major contribution to Sydney's future energy needs.

Mineral resources, particularly coal resources, face ongoing pressure from urban land uses, in particular housing and industry. Mining and extractive industry are valuable and finite land uses. Careful consideration should be given to the potential impact of access to these resources before commitments are made to development in the South West Subregion.



CEMETERY, CAWDOR ROAD

