



## Hay Shire Council

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Hay Shire  
COUNCIL

Ref : A20 | 2247

29<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal  
PO Box K35  
Haymarket Post Shop  
Sydney NSW 1240

### **Re: Review of the Cost and Pricing of Interment in NSW**

We refer to your draft report, dated September 2020, on the review of the costs and pricing of Interment in NSW. Hay Shire Council, at its meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020, resolved to make a submission on the draft report. We make comments as follows:

- Hay Shire Council conduct approximately 30 interments annually.
- Hay Shire Council has sufficient land for the next 75+ years for the operational of its cemeteries.
- Council supports the development of the operational and management of cemeteries under the control of local Councils.
- Council does not support the regulation of cemeteries in NSW, particularly Annual Information Returns.
- Council does not support extending the interment service levy to include rural Councils.
- Council supports guidelines that interment fees include all costs of the operation of cemeteries, including capital cost for future development and maintenance.
- Council does not support the publishing of interment costs, as these will vary widely depending on the location and the size of the operations, nor does it support the proposal to report on the operating performance of its cemeteries.
- Council does not support the setting of a maximum price for an interment. Price will be set up by a number of factors, including the wishes of a family. Costs in rural areas given the tyranny of distance and small number of interments, would significantly be higher than in other areas.
- Council does not support the proposal to amend the Act to impose a legal implication on all cemetery operations to be responsible for perpetual maintenance of perpetual sites. The 'traditional' section of cemeteries, with maintenance/repair of grave sites, would put unacceptable costs back onto Council, particularly small rural Councils.
- Council does support the engagement with Australian Accounting Standards Board for proper accounting treatment for cemeteries, provided that appropriate guidelines is provided to Councils and auditors.
- Council does support any guidance that can be provided to Councils to help them estimate their perpetual maintenance liabilities.

Thankyou for your consideration of our comments. Hay Shire Council is willing to participate in further discussions if required.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6990 1100.

Yours faithfully



David Webb  
**General Manager**