

INTERMENT, CEMETERY AND MEMORIALS POLICY



COUNCIL POLICY

Reference Number	1440215
Responsible Business Unit	City Assets
Responsible Officer	Manager City Assets
Legislation	Burials and Cremation Act 2013 and Regulations 2014
Relevant Delegations	Chief Executive Officer General Manager, Assets and Infrastructure Manager, City Assets
Related Policies Management Guidelines Frameworks	Cemetery Operating policy Memorials policy Interment on private land policy Fees & Charges Schedule
Link to Strategic Plan	Goal 2 – Great People & Lifestyle, 2.1 A modern City with Country Charm
Council resolution	Item 82.1
Date Adopted	14 March 2023
Review Date	2027
Previous Revisions	30 June 2014 item 64.1

POLICY STATEMENT

The Rural City of Murray Bridge is committed to ensuring that the dignity and respect of the deceased is honoured and that the community and visitors are provided with a place and opportunity to remember loved ones.

The four cemeteries owned and operated by the Council are well maintained and managed in accordance with the *Burial and Cremations Act 2013* and the *Burial and Cremations Regulations 2014* and the **Rural City of Murray Bridge Interment, Cemetery and Memorials Guideline**.

The Council acknowledges the diverse religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds of our community as well as honouring the resting place of many of the district's pioneers and respected citizens. To preserve the existing character and appearance of the cemeteries, the Council provides strict guidelines for the design and construction of monuments and memorials.

All funerals, burials, interments, monument works must be approved by the Council and all fees associated charged in accordance with Council's Fees and Charges Schedule which is updated annually.

Registers containing records of all interments and layout plans for each cemetery are maintained by the Council and are accessible for perusal by the public.

Requests to bury human remains on privately held rural land will be assessed on application and if approved, must comply with all government legislation.

The council recognises that members of our community may wish to use open space for memorials to commemorate individuals or groups who have made a significant contribution to the community. These requests will be considered and evaluated on consistent criteria for value to the overall community.

The Council has developed **Interment, Cemetery and Memorials Guideline** to be read in conjunction with this policy.

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OBJECTIVES

To outline the Council's commitment to providing peaceful places for remembrance for all backgrounds and honouring the history of the cemeteries.

To ensure that the interment of bodily remains occurs in accordance with relevant legislation and that the Council keeps appropriate registers, records and plans that are accessible by the public.

To ensure that the application for memorial plaques on seating and trees are managed consistently and in accordance with Council's strategic direction and corporate policies

To advise of the need to comply with the **Rural City of Murray Bridge Interment, Cemetery and Memorials Guideline** which provides detailed information and rules on the Council's cemeteries, interment process, burials and community memorials.

SCOPE

- Interment and memorials in the four Council-owned and operated cemeteries:-
 - Adelaide Road Cemetery
 - Bremer Road Cemetery
 - Monarto Pioneer Memorial Cemetery
 - Callington Cemetery
- All burials of human remains on private land in the Council area
- Placement of memorial plaques on structures in council parks, reserves, public open space and streetscapes or planting of memorial trees and gardens.

IMPLEMENTATION

Once adopted the CEO or relevant General Manager will be responsible for implementing the policy. This includes advice to staff, awareness training, monitoring of adherence to the policy and media releases advising the community of changes impacting on the operations of Cemeteries.

A review of the Interment, Cemetery and Memorials Policy will be undertaken every four years or as Legislation requires.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply in this Operating Policy:

"Cemetery" means the Adelaide Road Cemetery, Bremer Road Cemetery, Callington Cemetery and Monarto Pioneer Cemetery

"Council" means the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

"Human Remains" means the body or part of the body of a deceased person and includes cremated remains.

"Interment" of Human Remains includes:

- the placement of cremated remains in a columbarium or other structure designed as a repository for human remains;
- the burial in the earth of human remains (in a container);
- but does not include the scattering of cremated remains.

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"Memorial" means:

- an approved gravestone or other monument; or
- a plaque; or
- any other approved structure or physical object used to memorialise a deceased person.

"Monument" means a monument, tombstone, tablet, gravestone, kerbing, railing or other erection to be constructed in the Cemetery, used for commemorative purposes for burial sites.