

# **Draft Cemeteries Management Plan**



**MARLBOROUGH  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## Version control

| No  | Date     | Comment                          |
|-----|----------|----------------------------------|
| 1.0 | 24/11/25 | Draft for Council staff approval |
| 2.0 | 26/03/26 | Draft for Council Workshop       |
| 3.0 | 25/05/26 | Draft for Committee meeting      |
| 4.0 | 13/08/26 | Draft for Consultation           |

## Draft Cemeteries Management Plan

**August 2026**

### Published by:

Marlborough District Council  
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## Introduction

Cemeteries are important to the Marlborough community as they provide:

- A physical place where loved ones are laid to rest.
- Places of memorial, a place for family and friends to reflect and to celebrate and remember.
- A safe way to care for our deceased with standards that protect public health and the environment.
- A record about those who have gone before. This is important for heritage and historical research providing records of genealogy and help with ancestral research.
- Localised areas of open space and amenity.

The Marlborough District Council (Council) manages eight open cemeteries across Marlborough and has management responsibilities for four other cemeteries where interments no longer take place.

*Figure 1: Marlborough District Council cemeteries (open and closed)*



## About the Plan

The Cemeteries Management Plan (the Plan):

- Provides a consistent policy, management and decision-making framework.
- Guides the management and ongoing maintenance of cemeteries.
- Sets rules for cemetery operations and permission requirements.
- Informs the Council's financial planning of resourcing requirements.
- Ensures there is adequate future provision of cemetery land and infrastructure.
- Seeks to ensure cemeteries continue to meet public expectations.

The Plan applies to cemeteries the Council has management responsibility for. It does not cover trustee run cemeteries for which the Council approves trustees, but the funding, management and responsibility for interments rests with the trustees, or private burial grounds and urupā where Council has no management responsibility.

Further operational details can be found in Council's [Cemeteries Handbook – Te Pukapuka Urupā](#).

## Legislative requirements

The Council has statutory requirements it must meet in providing for and managing cemeteries. The preparation of a Cemeteries Management Plan is not a legislative requirement however; it does assist Council to meet its main statutory requirements outlined below. Appendix 2 provides an overview of other relevant legislation.

### Burial and Cremation Act 1964

The Burial and Cremation Act (BCA) is New Zealand's primary legislation governing burial and cremation. It applies to public and private burial grounds excluding Māori burial grounds, and permits only conventional burial, cremation and natural burials.

The BCA places a duty on all local authorities to ensure every community has access to places for burial and cremation. It authorises local authorities to undertake work for the purpose of carrying out this duty - namely acquisition of land and establishing, maintaining and improving cemeteries.

Relevant regulations are the Burial and Cremation (Removal of Monuments and Tablets) Regulations 1967, Cremation Regulations 1973 and Health (Burial) Regulations 1946.

While some local authorities offer cremation services, they are not legally required to do so. In Marlborough, cremation facilities are privately operated, and the Council does not provide this service.

The BCA and associated regulations remain under review with Central Government. This may see more responsibility and cost placed on local authorities and could require changes to the Plan in the future.

### Cemeteries Bylaw 2017

A Cemeteries Bylaw is in place to manage cemetery operations and activities. This Plan and the BCA provisions replace the need for the Cemeteries Bylaw, with the exception of provisions on the conduct of persons in cemeteries and the ability to set user fees and charges.

These provisions can be captured in Council's review of the Reserves and Other Public Places Bylaws in 2027, at which time the Cemeteries Bylaw can be revoked.

## Demand influences

### Our population is changing

Marlborough's population is projected to grow from 49,431 people in 2023 to 62,800 people in 2053<sup>1</sup>, an increase of 13,369 people over the next 30 years. Net migration (mainly inward from other parts of New Zealand and overseas) is anticipated to be the main source of this growth.

Projected demographic changes include:

- Ageing population - by 2053, the number of people aged 65+ will exceed those aged under 15, signalling a pronounced demographic ageing trend.
- Increasing diversity - the population is projected to become more diverse with increases in the proportion of Māori, Asian and Pacifica people.
- More deaths than births - natural increase (births minus deaths) is projected to be very low or negative, meaning deaths will begin to outnumber births over most of the projection period.

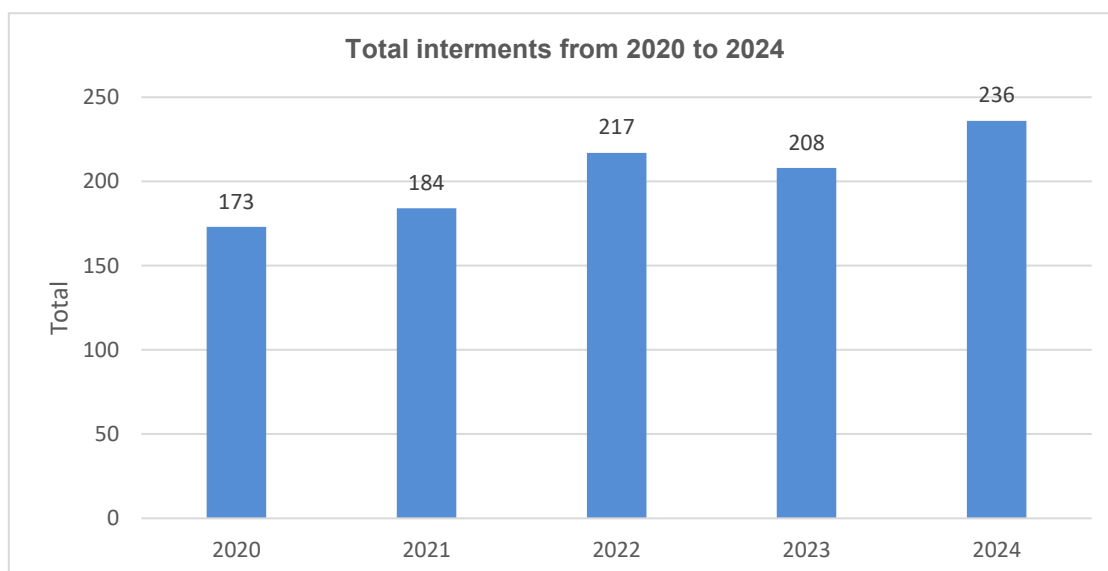
Demographic information and population projections are important inputs used to determine cemetery capacity and the type of cemetery services provided.

Deaths in Marlborough have steadily increased as the population grows and ages<sup>2</sup>. Not all deaths result in an interment in Council's cemeteries, however it is a factor to consider when assessing cemetery capacity.

### Interment rates are increasing

Figure 2 shows the increase in the total number of interments in Council cemeteries over the last five years. This information assists in planning for cemetery capacity based on trends over time.

*Figure 2: Total interments in Marlborough District Council cemeteries 2020-2024*



Note this doesn't show which interments were into new plots and which were subsequent interments into used plots, or how many were in restricted areas. For example, children's areas and natural burials.

<sup>1</sup> Information sourced from Statistics New Zealand. 2023 census data. Marlborough District Council utilises high growth projections.

<sup>2</sup> Statistics New Zealand identifies total deaths in Marlborough District increasing from 280 deaths in 1991 to 520 deaths in 2024

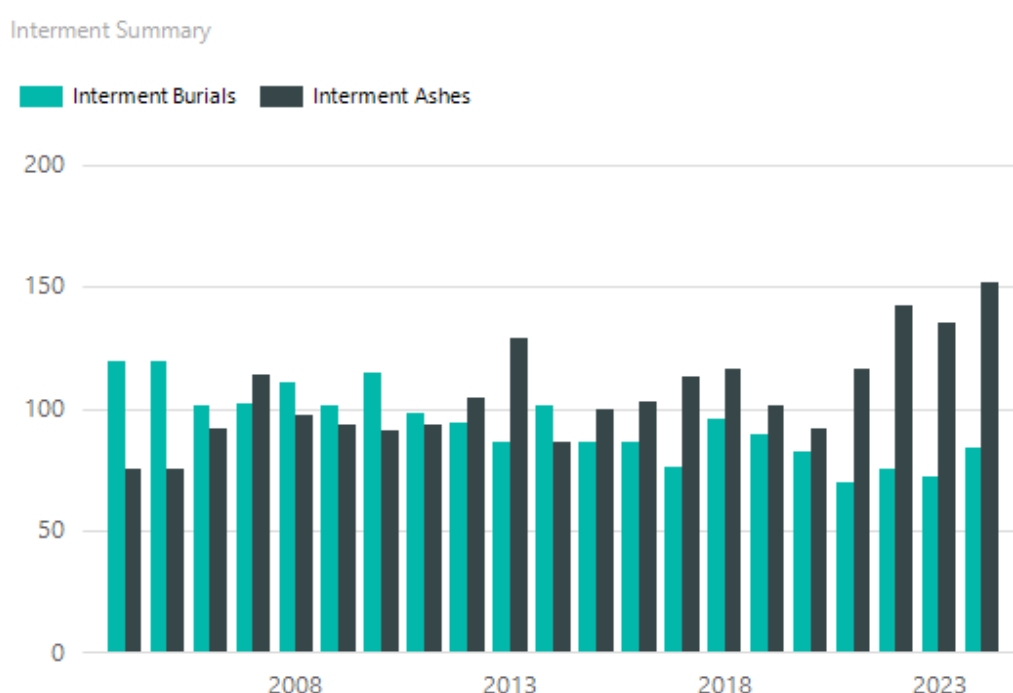
## More people are choosing cremation over burials

National trends show a strong and growing preference for cremation, with over 70 percent of New Zealander's choosing cremation<sup>3</sup>. This trend is driven by factors such as:

- cost-effectiveness
- the perceived lower environmental impact compared to traditional burial
- preference for cremains (cremated remains) to be located in a meaningful place
- increasing cultural acceptance.

Council does not have data on the number of cremations in Marlborough or what people choose to do with the ashes, other than the number of ash interments that occur in Council cemeteries. Figure 3 shows the increase in ash interments. Based on national and regional trends, this increase is likely to continue.

Figure 3: Ashes and burial interments in Marlborough District Council cemeteries



## Interest in natural burials is growing

A natural burial is commonly described as the burial of a person in a way that maximises the opportunity for natural decomposition processes to work - the body is allowed to recycle naturally. There are no permanent headstones, and the site is actively planted to encourage regeneration of a bush or forest environment.

The Council has set aside a dedicated area within Fairhall Cemetery for those who prefer a natural and environmentally friendly approach to burials. There are no plans to increase the space for natural burials however local demand trends may require this to be revisited in the future.

<sup>3</sup> 2023 New Zealand Funeral Industry Trends Report

## **Climate change and natural disasters are an ongoing risk**

Climate change and natural disasters can impact cemeteries through physical damage from extreme weather, such as floods, drought, erosion, and storms. Damage can impact cemetery infrastructure, such as headstones, and disrupt maintenance routines.

Rising sea levels and other climate impacts can threaten burial grounds that have deep cultural and spiritual significance for communities. Crisis events can result in heavy demand on cemetery services at short notice. For example, the pandemic response plan developed during COVID-19 includes ensuring provision for emergency storage facilities and mass burials, if the need arises.

Council recognises that extreme weather events are likely to become more frequent and more intense, and sea level rise is anticipated. Further studies will help to better understand the likely impact of climate change on people, the environment and infrastructure<sup>4</sup>.

## **Future cemetery services could look very different**

There could be demand for new interment methods in the future. Environmental impacts, cost saving and new technologies are some of the drivers for change.

Emerging alternative methods include cremation by rapid composting, water cremation and use of biodegradable urns for ashes. Space saving options include developing vertical cemeteries in multi-story buildings that reduce the spatial footprint.

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<sup>4</sup> As outlined in the [Infrastructure Strategy 2024-2054](#)

# Supply of cemetery services

## Cemetery network

Council administers eight open cemeteries and four cemeteries where interments no longer take place. An overview of the eight open cemeteries is below with interment information as of September 2025.

| Cemetery               | Land status                                              | Land area           | Total interments | Pre-purchased plots | Available plots <sup>5</sup> |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Fairhall</b>        | Freehold                                                 | 8.0 ha              | 6,972            | 188                 | 1,216                        |
| <b>Omaka</b>           | Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve                         | 6.6 ha              | 10,344           | 36                  | 646                          |
| <b>Picton</b>          | Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve (part). Freehold (part) | 4.6 ha              | 3,137            | 54                  | 472                          |
| <b>Tuamarina</b>       | Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve                         | 3.3 ha              | 925              | 76                  | 102                          |
| <b>Seddon/Awatere</b>  | Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve                         | 2.7 ha              | 598              | 32                  | 244                          |
| <b>Havelock</b>        | Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve                         | 1.2 ha              | 1,412            | 18                  | 204                          |
| <b>Rai Valley</b>      | Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve                         | 8,094m <sup>2</sup> | 249              | 96                  | 86                           |
| <b>Ward/Flaxbourne</b> | Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve                         | 8,094m <sup>2</sup> | 199              | 41                  | 158                          |
| <b>TOTALS</b>          |                                                          |                     | <b>23,836</b>    | <b>541</b>          | <b>3,128</b>                 |

The interment options currently available are:

- headstone burial areas
- lawn ash interment
- memorial gardens/gardens of remembrance for ashes
- niche wall ash interment (Fairhall Cemetery only)
- natural burials (Fairhall Cemetery only).

Fairhall Cemetery is the largest in the district, offering the greatest capacity for future interments and the widest range of burial options.

Further detail on each cemetery is in Appendix 1 including information on the four cemeteries where interments no longer take place.

<sup>5</sup> This is the remaining capacity available at each cemetery (excludes pre-purchased plots as they are already allocated).

## Financial information

In 2024 Council amended the public and private benefit apportionment of cemetery funding to achieve cost savings for ratepayers with consideration of where benefits lie.

This is currently 30 percent ratepayer and 70 percent user pays. Annual CPI (Consumers Price Index) adjustments are made to the fees to ensure the adopted ratio is maintained. The ratepayer share of cemetery costs is an acknowledgment of the public benefit of cemetery services including:

- A safe way to care for our deceased with standards that protect public health and the environment.
- Important for historical research providing records of genealogy and help with ancestral research.
- Providing localised areas of open space and amenity.

## Cemetery service levels

The Council's level of service for cemeteries is to *"Provide well-maintained cemeteries which are accessible and appropriate sites for the interment needs of the community"*.

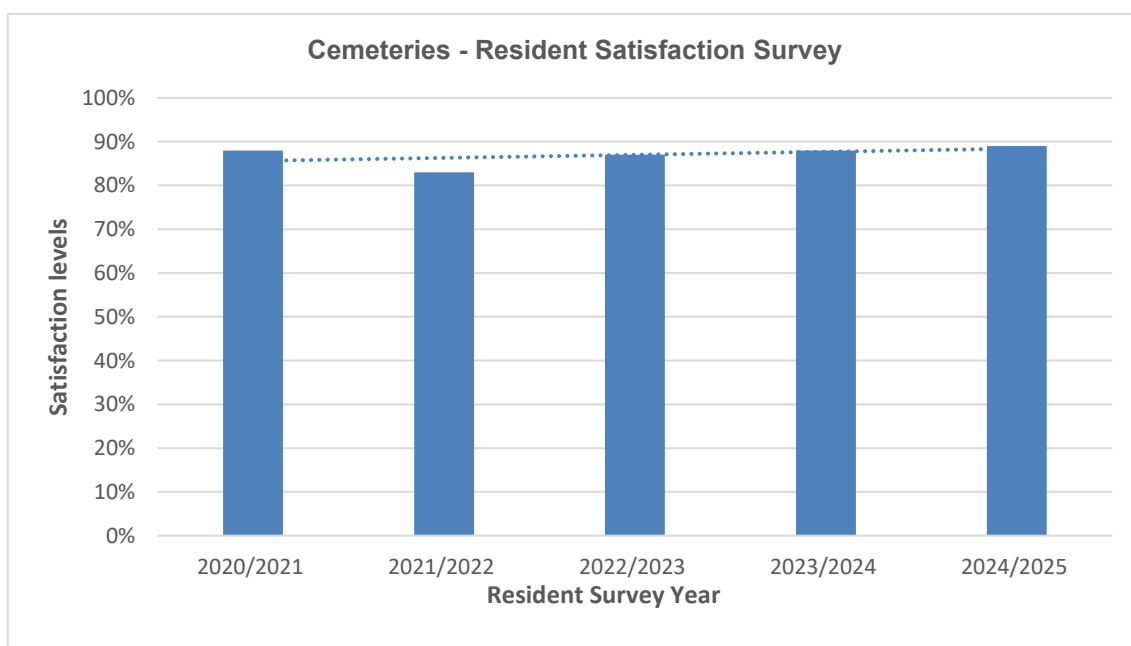
This is measured by the minimum number of burial and ashes plots available with a target of greater than or equal to 1,000. As of 2025, the network provides an estimated 3,128 available plots, exceeding this target.

There is sufficient overall capacity in the cemeteries network based on this level of service indicator. However, this doesn't consider demand and supply considerations relevant to different interment preferences. For example, the demand shift from burials to garden ashes plots and family ashes plots.

Operational levels of service are included in Council's management contracts.

Council's annual resident survey shows strong satisfaction with cemetery services. In 2024–2025, 89 percent rated operations positively, ranking cemeteries second out of 49 Council services - up three places from the previous year. Resident satisfaction has consistently exceeded 80 percent over the past five years (refer Figure 4) and compares favourably with other local authorities.

Figure 4: Marlborough District Council Resident Satisfaction Survey - Cemeteries



## Dedicated war service areas

The Council maintains and cares for the services areas at the cemeteries on behalf of the New Zealand Veterans' Affairs Department. Only former Armed Services personnel who have war service, or service and experience equivalent to war service, may be interred in a services area, along with their spouse or partner.

The services areas are laid out in a uniform way and only standard burial or ashes plaques are used. There is no provision to accommodate personal messages or photographs.

Recent changes to the Anzac Day Act 1966 and proposed changes through the Veterans' Recognition Bill (in progress) acknowledge conflicts after 1966 and officially commemorate all those who have served New Zealand in wars and war-like situations. These changes will likely see an increase in the use of dedicated war service areas over time.

## Cemetery master plans

Master plans for all open cemeteries, completed in 2018, outline each site's layout, key features and proposed actions to address identified challenges and opportunities.

They provide a useful visual representation for the ongoing development and management of each cemetery and include projects with costings and priorities to assist in the Long Term Plan budget process. Further reviews will be required to capture what has been achieved, changing context and future actions.

## Management approach

The day-to-day maintenance and responsibility for interments is managed by the Council through commercial maintenance contracts. Within these contracts there is a requirement to prepare plots, perform burials and undertake overall maintenance. This approach is used for managing the cemeteries at Fairhall, Havelock, Omaka, Picton, Seddon, Rai Valley and Tuamarina.

The maintenance contracts provide direction on how cemeteries are maintained, including:

- mowing of grass turf interment areas
- tree and shrub plantings, maintenance and renewals
- grave and ashes plot digging, backfilling and turf re-establishment
- ongoing top-up, levelling and turf maintenance of burial plot areas
- maintenance of cemetery infrastructure, for example, roadways, carparks, paths, seats, fences, irrigation, signage and larger public memorial or niche wall type structures.

The Ward/Flaxbourne Cemetery is maintained by the Flaxbourne Settlers Association, an arrangement that has been in place for some time. The contractor who prepares plots and performs burials at other Council cemeteries also performs this service at the Ward/Flaxbourne Cemetery.

The Council undertakes basic maintenance at the four cemeteries where no interments take place.

The Council's Cemeteries Administrator manages requests for interments, liaises with funeral directors, families and contractors over interments, maintains cemetery records and provides information for genealogical searches.

Assisting with cemetery planning and management in addition to the Council are:

- Funeral directors who coordinate and manage the information required for an interment to occur.
- Monumental Masons work with Council regarding permits to erect memorials on plots and undertake erection of memorials once they have been approved.

## Planning for the future

Council must ensure that there is sufficient capacity in the cemetery network to provide for current and future demand in Marlborough. Based on current high level analysis, the network can accommodate interments for the next 15 years. The analysis considers:

- The average interment rate over the last five years of 204 per year (see Figure 2) and dividing this by the current number of available plots of 3,128 (see Cemetery network table).
- The minimum number of plots required to meet Council's level of service which is 1,000 and is currently exceeded with 3,128 total available plots (see Cemetery network table).

However, whether a cemetery is at capacity can be greatly affected by:

- the type of burial and areas required for a full burial versus an ash interment.
- reservation of plots for future burials effectively tying up land for up to sixty years.

Council's 2024–2034 Long Term Plan identifies the need to plan for additional burial land within this decade. Future analysis must address all demand factors outlined in this Plan and assess capacity both across the network and at individual rural cemetery locations.

## Key challenges

This section provides a summary of the key challenges that impact how cemeteries are managed now and in the future. The objectives, policies and rules in the next section are Council's response to these challenges.

Many challenges are common to all cemeteries however; each cemetery has its own set of unique features and issues that may require tailored responses which can be addressed through cemetery master plans.

### Challenge 1: Community expectations and involvement

#### Community service level expectations

The Long Term Plan defines Council's customer-focused service levels for cemeteries, with operational details outlined in the asset management plan and contractor agreements. Community expectations can differ from these standards, requiring significant time and effort to manage and address.

#### Maintaining accessible and accurate records

Historic cemetery records remain largely paper-based, limiting public access and driving increased genealogy-related enquiries. Council staff are addressing inaccuracies and gaps as time permits. Full digitisation and online availability would improve public access to this information.

#### Community involvement in maintaining cemeteries

Friends of cemeteries groups are becoming more common, driven by heritage preservation interest and increased recognition of cemeteries as valued public spaces. No formal community groups are currently involved in protecting heritage values at Council cemeteries, though this could change in the future.

Future involvement must be carefully managed to safeguard fragile heritage features and respect families' responsibilities for gravestone maintenance.

Council may assume responsibility for privately administered cemeteries if they can no longer be managed by trustees. This occurred in 2022 with the formal transfer of Rai Valley Cemetery to Council control.

### Challenge 2: Looking after what we have

#### Maintenance of headstones and memorials

Council maintains lawn areas around burial beams, while families are responsible for the upkeep of headstones and memorials placed on the burial beams. Over time, headstones can deteriorate, particularly in older sections of the cemeteries.

From time to time, Council may undertake cleaning to preserve legibility. Health and safety risks, such as stabilising unsafe headstones are undertaken when necessary.

There is a public expectation for Council to maintain historic headstones which is not currently funded.

#### Decoration and adornment of graves

Wreaths, floral tributes or other adornments are often placed at the grave or ashes plot by the family during a funeral ceremony. If not secured or heavy enough these can blow away and result in rubbish in the surrounding area and can obstruct access. The use of glass adornments can also be problematic if they break.

Council enables adornments to remain in place for up to one month following the interment. After this time, all adornments are required to be removed or relocated to the confines of the burial beam, or other space, relevant to the plot. The Council's cemetery contractors respectfully undertake this task if this hasn't occurred.

### **Challenge 3: Meeting demand**

Future demand will shape cemetery management and development. Key drivers include:

- An ageing population.
- Changing interment preferences.
- Population growth.
- Financial constraints.

Ongoing monitoring of these factors is essential to ensure cemeteries meet community needs. It is assumed that cremation services will continue to be provided by the private sector.

### **Challenge 4: Financial sustainability**

Cemeteries are generally funded from user fees and general rates, with recent adjustments increasing the user-pays component to reduce ratepayer costs.

Where families cannot afford a burial plot, Council may allocate a “poor persons” grave within general cemetery areas with delayed payment or waived fees. There has been an increase in unclaimed ashes which has resulted in Council allocation of specific ashes plots to inter those cremains.

There are a wide range of other costs associated with funerals that are controlled by the private sector.

Rising maintenance costs, public expectations and potential legislative changes are expected to further impact cemetery management and burial fees over time.

# Objectives and policies

## 1.0 Cemetery provision

### Objectives

- 1.1 Long-term cemetery needs are provided for and cemetery land and facilities are managed to achieve a balance between community need, environmental impact and economic cost.

### Policies

#### Make the most of what we have

- 1.2 Use cemetery master plans to guide future interment provision and the design, management and improvement of individual cemeteries. Include consideration of:
  - a) cemetery capacity
  - b) land efficiency options
  - c) cultural values
  - d) community aspirations
  - e) resilience improvements
  - f) transport options to and from cemeteries
  - g) all abilities access to cemeteries and facilities within cemeteries.
- 1.3 Designate the cemeteries covered by this Plan for cemetery land use in the Marlborough Environment Plan, with an underlying open space zone appropriate for managing the open space values and associated activities.
- 1.4 Close cemeteries under section 41 of the Burial and Cremation Act 1964 once capacity is reached to confirm they are no longer operational.
- 1.5 Recognise and protect the historic heritage values of these cemeteries where relevant.

#### Future provision

- 1.6 Continue to monitor demand and trends for cemetery services including for different types of interment.
- 1.7 Ensure cemeteries continue to have the space available to provide appropriate interment options into the future (10 years to 30 years).
- 1.8 If Council is appointed to have the control and management of a trustee cemetery, the cemetery will be managed in accordance with the objectives, policies and rules of this Plan.

#### Financial sustainability

- 1.9 Provide for ongoing investment in maintaining and developing land held for cemetery purposes through the Council's Long Term Plan.
- 1.10 Council shall set fees and charges to recover the cost of operating, maintaining and developing cemeteries, considering the beneficiaries of this service and community affordability. Fees and charges are reviewed annually and amended as needed.

## Wider benefits

- 1.11 Recognise the contribution of the cemeteries in achieving wider Council strategic priorities such as improving freshwater quality and enhancing biodiversity corridors.

## 2.0 Cemetery management

### Objectives

- 2.1 Cemetery land and facilities are administered and managed in a manner that reflects the primary purpose of cemeteries and protects site values.

### Policies

#### Compliance and risk

- 2.2 Manage and operate cemeteries in accordance with the requirements of relevant legislation, particularly the Burial and Cremation Act 1964 and Reserves Act 1977.
- 2.3 Ensure a comprehensive understanding of all potential risks and mitigations in managing cemeteries including business and management risk, compliance risk and personal/public risk.

#### Management and maintenance

- 2.4 Continue to educate plot purchasers, their representatives or descendants on their responsibilities for maintaining memorial headstones, monuments, and other structures.
- 2.5 Undertake repairs and maintenance on graves where there are health and safety risks such as the headstones, walls or fences collapsing.
- 2.6 Continue to maintain services cemeteries in accordance with the Standard of Care set by New Zealand Veterans' Affairs.
- 2.7 Maintain to an appropriate standard the built infrastructure required to manage and develop the cemeteries including roading, water supply, power supply, signage, public toilets and utility buildings.
- 2.8 Maintain and frequently review, a comprehensive asset management plan for the cemeteries network.
- 2.9 The **Rules** for cemetery use (included in this Plan) describe specific operational conditions and where permission from Council is required.

#### Exclusive use

- 2.10 Consider opportunities for a lease or licence to occupy cemetery land where this helps to achieve the Council's management objectives (such as grazing of land for maintenance purposes).

#### Poor persons plots

- 2.11 Continue to ensure plots are set aside for the burial and ashes of poor persons and manage in accordance with the requirements outlined in the **Rules**.

## 3.0 Cemetery values

### Objectives

- 3.1 The distinct character and values of each cemetery is identified, protected and enhanced.
- 3.2 Diverse and changing customer expectations are reflected in cemetery planning and services.

### Policies

#### Cultural values

- 3.3 Recognise that the cemeteries are located within a broader cultural landscape of great significance to mana whenua. Work with mana whenua to ensure access to customary practices and recognition of tikanga and cultural values (for example, water for cleansing) where appropriate.
- 3.4 Recognise the role of cemeteries as cultural and spiritual spaces that reflect the diverse beliefs, values and histories of our community. Recognise cultures that have distinct rules for burial and visitation.

#### Heritage values

- 3.5 Provide opportunities that strengthen cultural heritage, local character and identity of each cemetery, contributing to a sense of place. Consider alignment to the Council's [Heritage Strategy](#).
- 3.6 Support those interested in tracing family history and researching genealogy by:
  - a) making all cemetery records readily available online
  - b) providing clear plot location information linked to interactive online digital mapping
  - c) continuing to add photographs of the gravesites to each plot location record
  - d) improving wayfinding at the cemeteries
- 3.7 Ensure that new buildings or alterations and additions to existing buildings are of a scale and design in keeping with the landscape and heritage values of the cemetery and the immediate site setting.
- 3.8 Recognise and promote the role of cemeteries in reflecting the history of Marlborough.
- 3.9 Maintain closed cemeteries in a way that protects their heritage values and character.

#### Environmental values

- 3.10 Protect and, where appropriate, restore indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems in the cemeteries, including freshwater ecosystems.
- 3.11 Improve ecological connectivity with nearby natural areas and wildlife corridors.
- 3.12 Use eco-sourced plants when planting native trees and shrubs for forest restoration and commemorative tree planting purposes where possible.
- 3.13 Encourage cemetery visitors to use biodegradable tributes and decorations.
- 3.14 Undertake native restoration planting of areas that are unsuitable for burials because of either topography, proximity to waterways or hydrology.
- 3.15 Continue to explore innovative solutions that may be utilised in further reducing the environmental impact including natural burials, eco-friendly burials and vertical burials.
- 3.16 Ensure tree planting is undertaken in accordance with Council's [Tree Policy](#).

## 4.0 Customer service

### Objectives

- 4.1 Changing community preferences in burial options are monitored and cemetery services are respectful of these evolving preferences wherever possible.
- 4.2 Cemetery services are delivered with respect, compassion, integrity and trust.

### Policies

#### Burial and cremation options

- 4.3 Continue to offer a choice of burial and cremation options in response to ethnic, religious, cultural and environmental preferences. Provision of these options at different locations will rely on:
  - a) there being a demonstrated significant community need
  - b) the ability to provide the services in a cost-effective way that the community can afford
  - c) consideration of cost implications for ongoing maintenance
- 4.4 A person may pre-purchase a burial or ashes plot in one of the Council's open cemeteries ahead of the time the actual plot is required for interment. The conditions and terms of any pre-purchase agreement are outlined in the **Rules**.

#### Customer support

- 4.5 Recognise and respect diversity of people's beliefs and customs around death and facilitate personal choices as much as possible in delivery of cemetery services.
- 4.6 Continue to improve the reliability of the database of records in relation to all Council cemeteries and make this information available in a range of sources and formats.
- 4.7 Continue to maintain quality assured standards of customer support and information in providing cemetery services.
- 4.8 Continue to recognise that where a person is laid to rest is a significant decision and is often reflective of strong connections between people and place. Cemetery use can be by residents past and present, extended whānau and those with personal connections to Marlborough.
- 4.9 Provide timely and sympathetic advice and support to cemetery customers, including those bereaved who wish to arrange and run their own funerals.
- 4.10 Provide a Cemeteries Handbook in both online and printed formats which includes easily accessible information to explain burial, cremation, memorial and other customer service rights, options, procedures and costs.
- 4.11 Continue to work closely with funeral directors who coordinate and manage the information required for an interment to occur, and monumental masons regarding permits to erect memorials on plots and the erection of memorials once they have been approved.
- 4.12 Provide and/or support public remembrance events at the cemeteries that offer an opportunity for people to come together to remember loved ones, subject to considering the impact on the cemetery environment and on cemetery visitors.

## 5.0 Visitor experience

### Objectives

- 5.1 Visitors can explore and appreciate cemeteries in a manner that is appropriate to places of burial.

### Policies

#### Visitor infrastructure

- 5.2 Ensure the atmosphere and amenities are appropriate for visits related to mourning and remembrance, recognising this is the primary purpose of cemeteries.
- 5.3 Provide safe and easy access for the public to care for and to mourn their loved ones.
- 5.4 Provide landscaping and seating to enhance the customer and visitor satisfaction and experience.
- 5.5 Ensure all proposed facilities meet best practice accessible and safe design standards.
- 5.6 Encourage and provide for informal passive recreational activities that are appropriate to the respectful and peaceful character of the cemeteries.

#### Access and way finding

- 5.7 Ensure cemeteries are open to the public year-round, with vehicle access restrictions at night-time if necessary.
- 5.8 Maintain a practicable network of driveways and pedestrian accessways as required in each cemetery to service the gravesites, facilities, utilities and special features of the cemeteries.
- 5.9 Provide easily accessible wayfinding and interpretative information about the cemeteries in a range of formats, including on-site, online and printed. Ensure signs do not create visual clutter, complement the character of each cemetery and are of high-quality design and durable materials.

## 6.0 Cemetery resilience

### Objectives

- 6.1 The provision, development and management of cemeteries contribute to Marlborough's resilience and climate change response.

### Policies

#### Sustainability

- 6.2 Integrate resilient, low carbon design and sustainable initiatives into cemetery planning and infrastructure (for example, minimise chemical use, use of recycled/reclaimed materials, use of native plants that tolerate dry conditions).
- 6.3 Ensure cemetery provision adapts to environmental challenges such as a changing climate.
- 6.4 Monitor and consider opportunities for incorporating more sustainable practices in the delivery of cemetery services.

## Emergency preparedness

- 6.5 Ensure capacity to accommodate a mass burial following natural disasters and civil defence emergencies such as an earthquake, in accordance with the Burial and Cremation Act 1964.
- 6.6 Ensure the pandemic response plan is kept up to date and utilised by Council staff in conducting cemetery operations during pandemic events.
- 6.7 Assess risks and mitigation measures related to natural hazards such as flooding, earthquakes, coastal erosion and inundation and liquefaction.
- 6.8 Coordinate emergency planning and operations with the New Zealand Police, Ministry of Health, Regional Public Health, hospitals and with the funeral/memorial sector.
- 6.9 Manage fire risk by appropriate management of activities that are a potential fire risk, coordinating with Fire and Emergency New Zealand and working with neighbours to coordinate cross boundary fire mitigation and planting fire resistant species in areas of high fire risk.

## Rules for cemetery use

This part of the Plan outlines rules applicable to the operation of cemeteries. They support the implementation of the objectives and policies outlined in this Plan.

### Opening hours

1. All cemeteries are open to the public for the daylight hours between dawn and dusk.
2. Interments may only take place between the hours of 9.00 am and 4.00 pm on any weekday, and between 9.00 am and 1.00 pm on Saturdays.
3. An interment may not be undertaken on Sundays or public holidays.
4. An interment may take place outside the times listed above only with prior approval from Council.

### Conduct

5. A person using or frequenting a cemetery must not:
  - (a) dig any ground or disturb any vegetation.
  - (b) damage any grave, vault, monument, or other thing at the cemetery.
  - (c) disturb any funeral service.
  - (d) drive any vehicle other than on the paved areas intended for vehicles, with the only exceptions to this being a hearse, a vehicle being used whilst installing a headstone or for cemetery maintenance, unless approved by a Council representative.
  - (e) enter the cemetery for purposes unrelated to the cemetery.
  - (f) enter a cemetery with an animal, other than a disability-assist dog, or as provided for in a Council Dog Control Bylaw.
  - (g) advertise or solicit.
  - (h) record, film or take photographs, unless solely for private purposes.

### Applications

6. Application forms must be completed and the relevant fee paid for the following:
  - (a) Plot purchase (including the pre-purchase of a plot ahead of the time it is required).
  - (b) Interment of burial.
  - (c) Disinterment.
  - (d) Installing a memorial, plaque or headstone.
  - (e) Transferring a pre-purchased plot to someone else.
  - (f) The sale of an unwanted pre-purchased burial or ashes plot back to the Council.

Note: Applications forms and fees are available on the Council's website.

7. For the pre-purchase of a plot, the application fee only relates to the purchase of the exclusive right of burial and administration associated with processing the application. Other fees will be payable at the time of interment.

## Exclusive right of burial/pre-purchase of plot

8. A Certificate of Exclusive Right of Burial for a plot will be issued with the person's name who is to be interred in that plot and that person becomes the Holder of the exclusive right of burial. This does not mean they own the piece of land on which the plot sits.
9. No person may purchase the exclusive right of burial for more than two plots unless approved by Council.
10. A plot in designated natural burial areas cannot be purchased except at the time a plot is required and used. At this time the adjoining plot space can be purchased and a Certificate of Exclusive Right of Burial issued in the name of the person on the Application for Exclusive Right of Burial form.
11. An exclusive right of burial cannot be purchased for a burial plot if that burial plot is to be used only for an ash's interment.
12. The Holder of an exclusive right of burial must comply with any conditions imposed by the Council before a burial can take place.
13. Exclusive rights of burial must not be on-sold by the Holder of the right to any other party apart from the Council. Only the Council can sell exclusive rights of burial for Council administered cemeteries.
14. The Holder of an exclusive right of burial may designate an assignee to administer the right of burial if the Holder is no longer able to. This assignee will be considered the primary person able to make decisions regarding the exclusive right of burial if the Holder is deceased or incapacitated. If no assignee is designated or available, the executor of the estate of the Holder will have responsibility for decisions regarding the exclusive right of burial. The Council may satisfy itself as far as practicable that a person is eligible to make any such decisions.
15. If after 60 years no burial has taken place in a purchased plot, the exclusive right of burial will revert back to the Council with no entitlement for refund of the original purchase price. The Council may resell the plot to the original Holder in the first instance if no burial has taken place and if the Holder wishes to retain that plot.
16. If the Holder of the right is unable to be located, then the exclusive right of burial reverts back to the Council in accordance with section 10 of the Burial and Cremation Act 1964 with no right of refund. Such plots may be resold by Council.
17. The Holder of an exclusive right of burial can transfer that right to a close relative subject to the approval of the Council and on payment of any prescribed transfer fee.
18. An assignee or executor of an estate can transfer ownership of an exclusive right of burial, or change the parties named as holding an exclusive right of burial.
19. Where the Holder of the exclusive right of burial (or assignee or executor) no longer wishes to use the exclusive right of burial, the Council may at its discretion purchase the right back. This shall be on such terms and conditions as Council thinks fit, provided that the price refunded shall not be less than the original purchase price. Exclusive rights of burial that have been bought back may be resold by the Council.

## All interments

20. Interments must take place in an appropriate area and as confirmed by Council. (for example, burials in a burial plot, ashes in an ashes' plot or in a burial plot by permission, natural burials in the Natural Burial area).

21. Notification of an intended interment must be given to Council no later than 48 hours prior to the date and time of the interment. If this notice is not given, an extra charge may be imposed by Council.
22. Ashes must not be scattered within the cemetery.
23. Ashes interments are to be backfilled by the family, unless otherwise arranged.
24. Casket burials will be backfilled by the cemeteries' contractor. Family, friends or whānau may request to backfill the grave themselves, and this can usually be accommodated if pre-arranged with the funeral director and Cemetery Administrator. If, during digging, the site becomes unstable, the permission to backfill may be revoked due to health and safety requirements.

### Natural burials

25. A natural burial must:
  - (a) be single depth, with a minimum depth cover of 800mm.
  - (b) only use caskets or coffins made of biodegradable materials.
  - (c) use shrouds made of natural materials.
  - (d) ensure there has been no chemical or embalming treatment of the body.
  - (e) contain only biodegradable accessories, including clothing.
  - (f) use only temporary, untreated wooden markers, placed at the time or within the first month of burial, centrally located at the head of the plot.
  - (g) have no memorials or adornments placed on or near the burial plot.

Note: A natural burial plot may be marked more permanently by a native tree or shrub chosen by the family from the list provided by Council within the Natural Burial booklet.

### Services cemeteries

26. Eligibility for interment in a Services Cemetery is determined by the New Zealand Veterans' Affairs. Note: the requirements for eligibility can be found on the New Zealand Veterans' Affairs website.
27. Only an eligible Serviceperson and their spouse or partner may be buried in a Services Cemetery (in a double-depth plot, not side-by-side).

### Plots and graves

28. Only a person authorised by Council may dig a grave.
29. The grave must be dug at a depth to allow a second interment unless the Council directs otherwise.
30. The minimum depth of cover for any casket or coffin (except in a Natural Burial area) must be no less than 800mm.
31. A maximum of two people may be buried in any one burial plot, except where prior permission is given by Council. Further interments of ashes' urns are permitted above the second burial.
32. A grave can be reopened for subsequent interment/s where prior permission is given by the Council and by either: (1) The owner of the Exclusive Right of Burial, or (2) Their assignee, or (3) The executor of the will or the next-of-kin of the last person buried in the grave.

### Memorials and headstones

33. Memorials, headstones and plaques must:

- (a) only be installed or erected after completion of the appropriate application and confirmation from Council of its acceptance.
  - (b) be installed by a Monumental Mason or other person approved by Council.
  - (c) comply with the types and sizes of headstones and memorials permitted (including plaques on memorial ashes walls), as set out in the document titled, "Size of Headstones & Memorials within Marlborough Cemeteries".
  - (d) comply with the minimum structural design criteria, performance and renovation requirements as set out in the document titled, "New Zealand Standards: Headstones and cemetery monuments (NZS 4242:2018)". This covers all new, additional, renovation and restoration work, including installation requirements at cemeteries.
  - (e) be installed wholly within the beam area or within the allocated garden space.
34. Ownership of the memorial or headstone remains with the family, whānau, or assignee of the deceased, and any maintenance or repairs are their responsibility.
35. Subject to the provisions of the Burial and Cremation (Removal of Monuments and Tablets) Regulations 1967, Council can remove any installation that falls into a state of dilapidation or neglect or poses a danger to the public. A photographic record of the memorial will be taken prior to removal and retained in cemetery records.
36. Removal of a memorial or headstone must not be undertaken without the prior written approval of Council. Application for approval must be accompanied by proof of authority to do so.

### Vaults or mausolea

37. Vaults or mausolea must:
- (a) only be installed or erected after completion of the appropriate application and confirmation from Council of its acceptance.
  - (b) be erected by a Monumental Mason or other person approved by Council.
  - (c) be kept in good repair by the family, friends, whānau, or assignee of the deceased.
  - (d) comply with the minimum structural design criteria, performance and renovation requirements as set out in the document titled, "New Zealand Standards: Headstones and cemetery monuments (NZS 4242:2018)". This covers all new, additional, renovation and restoration work, including installation requirements at cemeteries.
38. Council can give notice, being no less than three (3) months, requiring the owner to repair any vault or mausoleum in accordance with clause 5 of the Burial and Cremation (Removal of Monuments and Tablets) Regulations 1967.
39. Where a vault or mausoleum may pose a danger to any person, Council can take it down or remove it in accordance with section 9 of the Burial and Cremations Act 1964.

### Other built structures or plantings

40. No railing, fencing, seating, or structures other than set out above, shall be built or installed around a plot or elsewhere within a cemetery.
41. A person must not plant any tree, shrub, or other vegetation without prior permission from the Council.

Note: Council may cut or remove any vegetation planted in the cemetery, at its discretion.

## Adornments

42. Adornments can be placed on the plot for up to one month following an interment.
43. After one month following the interment, adornments must be removed or confined to the concrete beam area.
44. Adornments must not interfere with the proper maintenance of the cemetery or other graves.
45. Items that are breakable or may pose a danger must not be placed on the memorial, plaque, beam, or grassed area of a plot. These include, but are not limited to: glass, alcohol, cigarette lighters, stones, pottery, and crosses or items on stakes pushed into the grassed area.

Note: Council may remove the items listed above and dispose of them. Special items that are removed will be stored and retained for a period of three months to allow time for them to be collected from storage by the owner. After three months they will be disposed of without compensation to the owner.

46. Artificial flowers or arrangements that have faded or deteriorated or have been blown off the plot by the wind, will be disposed of.
47. The use of artificial flowers or arrangements is discouraged but currently still permitted within the confines of a container constructed within the memorial or headstone.

## Disinterment

48. The disinterment of a body, or remains of a body, must be conducted in accordance with section 51 of the Burial and Cremation Act 1964.
49. The disinterment must be conducted in the presence of: a Council officer OR a Funeral Director OR a Health Protection Officer OR any other person with prior approval of Council.
50. If a grave is rendered empty due to disinterment, and where there is no valid Exclusive Right of Burial, the plot will revert back to Council and Council will not be liable to make any refund of the cost of that interment plot. Council may then sell or use the plot for future interments.

## Poor persons burial and ashes plots

51. Council may permit the interment of a poor person in accordance with section 49 of the Burial and Cremation Act 1964.
52. Confirmation is required from a Justice of Peace or the executor of the persons estate that there are not sufficient funds to pay for the plot or interment fees, and that relatives and friends are unable to pay. Council will pay the contractor fees for the interment.
53. An interment request application must be completed by the funeral director and accompanied by the relevant documentation to confirm inability to pay.
54. Burials will be single-depth and no further interments are permitted in the plot unless the full fee for the plot is first paid.
55. Provision will be made for the interment of poor persons ashes, noting that this plot will not be exclusively for the use of one person. A maximum of eight urns will be interred in each "Poor Person's" Ashes' Plot. If someone comes forward to claim the ashes at a later date, the fee for disinterment must be paid by them. If reinterment is required, all other applicable fees must be paid as well.

56. A simple, small plaque bearing the name, birth and death date of the deceased, is permitted to be placed by the funeral director at their cost, if they wish. Additional plaques from family or friends are not permitted to be placed on a Poor Persons' plot.
57. For burials, if family or friends come forward at a later date and wish to shift the body, they will be invoiced for the cost of the disinterment. If they wish to reinter elsewhere, then they will be invoiced for the cost of a plot, if applicable, and for the interment fee. If they wish the body to remain where it is, in order to place a headstone or memorial on the plot, they will first be required to reimburse Council for the cost of the plot only.
58. For ashes, before interment, each urn should be marked clearly on the outside with the name of the deceased, so that in the event of disinterment the correct ashes can be identified and retrieved. The Sexton, upon burying each urn, will take a photo of the burial spot within the plot to aid in location if required. These photos will be provided to the Council Cemeteries Administrator to save in the database against the plot. If family or friends come forward at a later date and wish to retrieve the urn, they will be invoiced for the cost of disinterment. If they wish to reinter elsewhere, then they will also be invoiced for the cost of an ashes' plot, if applicable, and for the interment fee.

**For further information on the rules and the documents referred to in the rules please go to Council's website - <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/cemeteries>**

## Actions

This section summarises actions referred to in this Plan.

Some actions will be funded through existing budgets and/or staff time, while others are unfunded initiatives requiring consideration in the Long Term Plan or Annual Plan.

| No. | Action                                                                                                                          | Plan reference                 | Timing    |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1.  | Complete land status processes.                                                                                                 | Appendix 1                     | 2026-2027 |
|     | a. Apply to vest the control and management of Department of Conservation owned cemeteries at Tuamarina and Seddon in MDC.      |                                |           |
|     | b. Apply to formally close MDC cemeteries at Renwick and Taylor Pass.                                                           |                                |           |
|     | c. Apply to classify Fairhall Cemetery as local purpose (cemetery) reserve.                                                     |                                |           |
|     | d. Complete process to recognise MDC ownership of Omaka Cemetery (via gazette notice).                                          |                                |           |
| 2.  | Cemetery capacity and demand detailed analysis                                                                                  | Policies 1.6 and 1.7           | 2027-2028 |
| 3.  | Work alongside iwi to identify and recognise historical Māori burial sites within Council owned and / or controlled cemeteries. | Policy 3.3                     | Ongoing   |
| 4.  | Update website and education tools                                                                                              | Objectives, policies and rules | 2026-2029 |
| 5.  | Cemetery master plan review                                                                                                     | Policy 1.2                     | 2029-2032 |
| 6.  | Cemetery master plan implementation                                                                                             | Policy 1.2                     | 2033+     |
| 7.  | Cemeteries Management Plan review                                                                                               | Whole plan                     | 2033+     |

## Glossary

**beam** means a concrete strip that marks plot row and number and in which a memorial or plaque is placed.

**built structure** includes a vault, a mausoleum and a memorial.

**cemetery** means any land vested in or under the control of Council from time to time and dedicated as a cemetery.

**Council** means the Marlborough District Council.

**disability-assist dog** has the same meaning as in section 2 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

**disinterment** means the removal of any body or the remains of any body or ashes interred in any cemetery.

**exclusive right of burial** means a right that may be purchased from Council which grants the purchaser, and his or her assignee, the exclusive right of burial in a designated burial plot for a period of up to 60 years; and

(a) does not create an ownership interest over the designated plot; and

(b) lapses in accordance with section 10 of the Burial and Cremation Act 1964.

**grave** means the area where the body of a deceased person is, or their ashes are, buried.

**interment** means the burial or other interment of a body, remains or ashes.

**lawn cemetery** means a cemetery or part of a cemetery that Council has determined, by resolution publicly notified to be a lawn cemetery.

**mausolea** are an above-ground burial structure for the deposit of a body, remains or ashes in a specially sealed casket or coffin.

**memorial** includes a tombstone, headstone, memorial, **memorial ashes walls** or other erection.

**natural burial** means a burial that has a low environmental impact, including the body not being treated with chemicals or oils that prevent or slow down the decay of the body.

**plot** includes a burial, ashes or memorial plot.

**vault** means an underground burial chamber.

## Appendix 1 – Cemetery information

### Open cemeteries

Fairhall



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Land ownership                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | MDC             |
| Land status/reserve classification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Freehold        |
| Area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 8.05ha          |
| Total interments (burial and ashes)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 6,972           |
| Legal description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Pt Lot1 DP 4468 |
| Gazette notices                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | n/a             |
| Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Memorial burial</li><li>• Lawn burials</li><li>• Ashes niche wall</li><li>• Memorial plaque wall</li><li>• Ashes beams</li><li>• Family ashes beams</li><li>• Natural burial area</li><li>• Tree ashes gardens</li><li>• Memorial ashes gardens</li><li>• RSA burial</li><li>• RSA ashes</li><li>• Children's burial area</li><li>• Children's ashes garden</li><li>• Stillborn memorial area</li><li>• Muslim beam</li></ul> |                 |

Omaka



|                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Land ownership                                                                                                                                                                   | Omaka Cemetery Trustees (process to gazette ownership with MDC required) |
| Land status/reserve classification                                                                                                                                               | Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve                                         |
| Area                                                                                                                                                                             | 6.58ha                                                                   |
| Total interments (burial and ashes)                                                                                                                                              | 10,344                                                                   |
| Legal description                                                                                                                                                                | Lot 2 DP 771<br>Pt Sec 25 Blk III Taylor Pass SD                         |
| Gazette notices                                                                                                                                                                  | NZ Gazette 1982 p336<br>NZ Gazette 2011 p3588 (reopening)                |
| Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Memorial burial</li><li>• Lawn burial</li><li>• RSA burial</li><li>• Ashes beams</li><li>• Tree ashes garden</li></ul> |                                                                          |

|  |                                                                           |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorial ashes garden</li> </ul> |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| Picton                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Land ownership                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | MDC                                                                                      |
|                                                                                   | Land status/reserve classification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve (part)<br>Freehold (part)                               |
|                                                                                   | Area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 4.6 ha                                                                                   |
|                                                                                   | Total interments (burial and ashes)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 3,137                                                                                    |
|                                                                                   | Legal description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Lot 1 DP 12271, Pt Sec 573, 574, 575, 576, 577<br>TN OF Picton, Sec 1178<br>TN OF Picton |
|                                                                                   | Gazette notices                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | NZ Gazette 1983 p495                                                                     |
|                                                                                   | Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorial burial</li> <li>• Lawn burial</li> <li>• Memorial plaque wall</li> <li>• Ashes beams</li> <li>• Tree ashes gardens</li> <li>• Memorial ashes gardens</li> <li>• RSA burial</li> <li>• RSA ashes</li> <li>• Children's area</li> </ul> |                                                                                          |
|                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                          |

| Tuamarina                                                                           |                                                                                                                                     |                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Land ownership                                                                                                                      | Department of Conservation (process to vest in MDC required) |
|                                                                                     | Land status/reserve classification                                                                                                  | Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve                             |
|                                                                                     | Area                                                                                                                                | 3.30ha                                                       |
|                                                                                     | Total interments (burial and ashes)                                                                                                 | 925                                                          |
|                                                                                     | Legal description                                                                                                                   | Lot 1 DP 1442<br>Sec 122 SO 6146                             |
|                                                                                     | Gazette notices                                                                                                                     | DOC 14070<br>NZ Gazette 1984 p659                            |
|                                                                                     | Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorial burial</li> <li>• Lawn burial</li> <li>• Ashes beams</li> </ul> |                                                              |
|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                     |                                                              |

## Seddon/Awatere



|                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Land ownership                                                                                                                                                                    | Department of Conservation (process to vest in MDC required) |
| Land status/reserve classification                                                                                                                                                | Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve                             |
| Area                                                                                                                                                                              | 2.72ha                                                       |
| Total interments (burial and ashes)                                                                                                                                               | 598                                                          |
| Legal description                                                                                                                                                                 | SEC 9 Blk XIII Clifford Bay SD                               |
| Gazette notices                                                                                                                                                                   | NZ Gazette 1982 p1450                                        |
| Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorial burials</li> <li>• Lawn burials</li> <li>• RSA burials</li> <li>• RSA ashes</li> <li>• Ashes beams</li> </ul> |                                                              |

## Havelock



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Land ownership                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | MDC                                                                                                                |
| Land status/reserve classification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve                                                                                   |
| Area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1.26ha                                                                                                             |
| Total interments (burial and ashes)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 1,412                                                                                                              |
| Legal description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Sec 220 TN of Havelock,<br>Sec 61 TN of Havelock,<br>Sec 62 TN of Havelock                                         |
| Gazette notices                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Marlborough Provincial Gazette 1862 p40<br><br>Marlborough Provincial Gazette 1867 p7<br><br>NZ Gazette 1982 p1098 |
| Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorial burial</li> <li>• Lawn burial</li> <li>• Ashes beams</li> <li>• Tree ashes garden</li> <li>• Memorial ashes garden</li> <li>• RSA burial</li> <li>• RSA ashes</li> <li>• Children's area</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                    |

| Rai Valley                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Land ownership                                                                                                                                               | Department of Conservation (vested in MDC to control and manage) |
|                                                                                   | Land status/reserve classification                                                                                                                           | Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve                                 |
|                                                                                   | Area                                                                                                                                                         | 8,094m <sup>2</sup>                                              |
|                                                                                   | Total interments (burial and ashes)                                                                                                                          | 249                                                              |
|                                                                                   | Legal description                                                                                                                                            | SEC 37 Blk I Wakamarina SD                                       |
|                                                                                   | Gazette notices                                                                                                                                              | NZ Gazette 1982 p1642                                            |
|                                                                                   | Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorial burials</li> <li>• Lawn burials</li> <li>• RSA burials</li> <li>• Ashes beams</li> </ul> |                                                                  |

| Ward/Flaxbourne                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|  | Land ownership                                                                                                                                                               | MDC                              |
|                                                                                     | Land status/reserve classification                                                                                                                                           | Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve |
|                                                                                     | Area                                                                                                                                                                         | 8,094m <sup>2</sup>              |
|                                                                                     | Total interments (burial and ashes)                                                                                                                                          | 199                              |
|                                                                                     | Legal description                                                                                                                                                            | SEC 21 Blk VI Cape Campbell SD   |
|                                                                                     | Gazette notices                                                                                                                                                              | NZ Gazette 1983 p3386            |
|                                                                                     | Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorial burials</li> <li>• Lawn burials</li> <li>• Ashes beams</li> </ul> Maintained by a community organisation |                                  |

### Closed cemeteries

| Cemetery           | Location                                          | Land status                                                  |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Founders/Pioneer   | Havelock Street, Renwick                          | Lot 3 DP 2459 - Freehold                                     |
| Fairhall Diversion | Old Renwick Road                                  | Gazetted as cemetery (closed) 1980                           |
| Taylor Pass        | Awatere Valley Road - 8 km from State Highway 1   | Lot 1 DP 1402 - Freehold                                     |
| Ruapeka            | State Highway 6 (between Havelock and Canvastown) | Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve (closed) Gazette 1964 p 455 |

## Appendix 2 – Strategic and statutory context

### Local Government Act 2002

Under the Local Government Act, territorial authorities are required from time to time, to assess the provision of sanitary services, including cemeteries and crematoria. The purpose is to assess the services from a public health perspective, including health risks to communities resulting from an absence or deficiency in the services, the quality of services available and the current and estimated demands for the services.

### Reserves Act 1977

Cemeteries commonly have a status of Local Purpose (Cemetery) under the Reserves Act 1977. Most open cemeteries in Marlborough have this classification although Fairhall Cemetery is not classified as a reserve. This classification requires the reserve to be managed in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977. As local purpose reserves do not require a management plan under the Reserves Act 1977, this Plan has not been prepared under that Act.

### Resource Management Act 1991 – Marlborough Environment Plan

The Resource Management Act 1991 requires local authorities to sustainably manage the natural and physical resources in their regions and districts. The Marlborough Environment Plan (MEP) provides the local framework for the management of land uses and their environmental impacts.

Five zones apply to open cemeteries: Rural Environment, Coastal Environment, Urban Residential, Open Space 1 and Open Space 2. Three of the closed cemeteries are zoned Rural Environment and one Urban Residential. Designations are in place for all the open cemeteries meaning land use activities may occur without the need for resource consent. Other activities however may require resource consent.

### Health Act 1956

The Health Act 1956 sets out obligations for local authorities to improve, promote, and protect public health within its district. Council is empowered to appoint environmental health officers to assess and manage nuisance and create and enforce bylaws to protect public health. Cemeteries are identified as a sanitary work in the Health Act and local authorities may be required by the Minister to provide, alter or extend sanitary works under this legislation.

### Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

The Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act promotes the identification, protection, preservation, and conservation of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand. This may include identifying historic places or areas that have significant heritage values. The legislation restricts modification or destruction of an archaeological site without authority from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga. Cemeteries can be recognised as a heritage area however no cemeteries have been identified with this status in Marlborough.

### Council bylaws

Cemeteries come under the definition of public places used in Council bylaws. Relevant Council bylaws for cemeteries include the Alcohol Control Bylaw 2024, Dog Control Bylaw 2021, Reserves and Other Public Places Bylaw 2017 and Responsible Camping Control Bylaw 2022.