

Draft Cemeteries Management Plan: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does the draft plan propose any changes to the way we manage and operate our cemeteries?

No it doesn't. It simply brings together all of the existing information about how we manage and operate our cemeteries into one place.

It identifies things that influence demand for cemetery services such as population growth and an increasing trend in cremations over burials, and key challenges we need to respond to now and in the future.

It outlines objectives and policies that guide our provision and management approach and how we will protect cemetery values and respond to different cultural needs in our community.

It identifies the rules that determine how we operate our cemeteries on a day-to-day basis including opening hours, exclusive right of burial, and requirements for plots, memorials and adornments.

2. Will the draft plan mean our cemetery fees will increase?

No it won't. Fees and charges for cemetery services are set through Council's Annual Plan and Long-term Plan process, not through this draft plan.

3. Why doesn't the draft plan include all cemeteries in Marlborough (e.g. urupa, trustee run cemeteries)?

The draft 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.

4. Why is the draft plan replacing the Exclusive Right of Burial Policy?

Relevant provisions of Council's current Exclusive Right of Burial Policy are now incorporated into the draft plan, so the policy is no longer required.

5. Why has Council developed the draft plan if it's just reflecting what we do already?

We currently have two documents that provide direction on cemeteries and that don't necessarily capture everything we do in this space.

As outlined above, the draft plan provides a comprehensive picture of how we manage and operate our cemeteries, all in one document. It is proposed to replace Council's current Exclusive Right of Burial Policy.

The potential for the draft plan to replace the Cemeteries Bylaw will be considered in 2027 when we review other Council bylaws at the same time.

6. How will Council consider my feedback?

All feedback will be provided to the Hearing Panel for them to consider and make recommendations in response to matters raised. Council staff will prepare a report summarising key themes and requested changes and additions to assist the Hearing Panel with their recommendations. This will then be considered by the Council before adopting a final Cemeteries Management Plan.