



Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of New South Wales

Mrs Lucy Turnbull AO
Chief Commissioner
Greater Sydney Commission
PO Box 57
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Mrs *Turnbull,* Turnbull,

I am writing to request that the Greater Sydney Commission provide advice and recommendations on the strategic planning considerations for the provision of new cemeteries, with a focus on the Greater Sydney Region. The issue of cemetery space across Greater Sydney has been raised by a number of local communities, religious organisations and MPs, including Member for Mulgoa, Tanya Davies.

This request is being made under section 10 (1) (a) of the Greater Sydney Commission Act 2015.

The Greater Sydney Region Plan refers to cemeteries and crematoria as key social infrastructure that need to be accessible geographically and economically, and reflective of a diversity of cultures and backgrounds.

Research by Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW has indicated that Greater Sydney requires additional land for burials and cremations to meet the needs of the Region. However, this does not mean that cemeteries are appropriate in all locations, and strategic guidance is needed on the criteria that should be taken into account in assessing appropriate sites for cemetery proposals.

The advice and recommendations can inform the Government on the key planning criteria to consider in the location of new cemeteries and can assist the Department of Planning and Environment, as well as local councils, in undertaking assessment of cemetery proposals.

The scope of work is expected to include:

1. Review of recent reports on this subject including by David Harley and the Metropolitan Sydney Cemetery Capacity Report;
2. Consulting with key agencies and stakeholders on strategic issues, community concerns, and environmental considerations, including Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW, relevant local councils, cemetery trusts and Aboriginal Land Councils.
3. Conferring with Department of Planning and Environment regarding land availability and relevant criteria to be considered in the establishment of a cemetery (e.g. land use zoning, conservation areas, biodiversity protection);

4. A review of any national and international planning strategies or case studies on cemetery site selection; and
5. Preparing a cemetery site identification Information Note in consultation with relevant agencies.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gladys Berejiklian', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier