

VARROVILLE

# Plan for huge cemetery

TRUST SEEKS 136,000 GRAVES TO OVERCOME SHORTAGE OF BURIAL SPACE



Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust chairman Leo McLeay inspects plans for the cemetery at the Scenic Hills at Varroville.

Picture: IAN SVEGOVIC

Amanda Partridge

A NEW 136,000 gravesite plan for the Scenic Hills could help meet increasing demand for cemetery space, but not everyone agrees the location is suitable.

Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust will submit a rezoning proposal to Campbelltown Council to make land at St Andrews Rd, Varroville, suitable for the Macarthur Memorial Park.

The memorial park would deliver 136,000 graves over the next 100 years for all denominations.

The trust believes burial spaces in the Sydney area will be absorbed by 2058. At the Macarthur level, burial spaces will be full by 2041.

The trust hopes the Macarthur Memorial Park would extend the capacity of

## THE CONCEPT

**WHAT:** Macarthur Memorial Park in the Scenic Hills  
**APPLICANT:** Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust

**SCALE:** 136,000 graves over 100 years

**STAGES:** The project would develop across five stages. First stage - two chapels, condolence room, office, workshop and holding area to be completed by 2014. Final stage expected to be operational after 2099

**CONCERN:** Fears about preserving iconic Scenic Hills

burial sites for the Macarthur region until 2119.

Trust chief executive officer Peter O'Meara said the cemetery would cater to all people with a landscape-focused plan incorporating

## Opinions differ on merits of project

I'D LIKE to hear discussions on it before I commit myself. As time moves on it's going to be difficult for us to protect those Scenic Hills. We always fight to protect our urban spaces but we seem to be coming under more threat. As far as this particular proposal goes there needs to be a lot more discussion and the chance for general public comment.

**Sue Dobson**  
Campbelltown mayor

It's a wonderful project which will benefit our community and leave a great legacy for the future.

**Bryan Doyle**  
Campbelltown state Liberal MP

My prayer is everything will go smoothly and people will realise what a benefit is really coming to this area.

**Peter Ingham**  
Wollongong Catholic Bishop

As they unveiled plans all

we could see was the Varroville colonial property being destroyed and replaced with a Disneyland for the dead. Most councillors got voted in on the commitment to protect the Scenic Hills and rezoning this land is not protecting the Scenic Hills.

**Jacqui Kirkby**  
Scenic Hills Association

It makes sense. You won't see it from the road.

**Cr Paul Lake**  
Campbelltown

said the plan broke zoning rules and would ruin the area's heritage.

"Of all the land in the Scenic Hills this is the most historic. This is destruction of Varroville estate," she said.



Peak hour on Narellan Rd.

## \$53m for Narellan Rd upgrade

IN the biggest Macarthur region election sweetener so far, the Coalition has promised to inject \$53 million into the Narellan Rd upgrade if elected at Saturday's federal poll.

Opposition treasury spokesman Joe Hockey joined Macarthur federal Liberal MP Russell Matheson yesterday to announce the funding to address congestion on the road.

In June the State Government announced \$4.9 million for the project in its 2013-14 budget with the work receiving planning approval last month.

The upgrade involves construction of three lanes in both directions, new traffic lights at Kenny Hill Rd and after the bridge on the Campbelltown side, a shared pedestrian and cycle path and widening of the southbound exit ramp.

Mr Matheson said the Coalition's proposed investment in the stretch was great news. "This shows the Coalition's commitment to improving infrastructure in the southwest growth corridor," he said.

Macarthur Labor candidate Ian Fulton said Narellan Rd needed investment but questioned the merit of the Coalition's funding promise. "This announcement on the surface seems fine, but there appears to be no costings, so it appears to be just words," he said.

■ Polls open between 8am and 6pm on Saturday at community venues and schools.

■ Candidate profiles: pages 32-33

**Michelle Roffe**  
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