



MEDIA RELEASE

Public Meeting to decide Varroville Cemetery

The Scenic Hills Association (SHA) is urging people to register to speak at a Public Meeting being held by the Independent Planning Commission ('Commission') on the Varro Ville Cemetery (Macarthur Memorial Park) Development Application.

The meeting will be held on Monday 25 March 2019 at Lakeside Golf Club 50 Raby Rd, Gledswood Hills NSW 2557. People who want to speak must register by 5 pm on Monday 18 March 2019, by completing a [Registration Form](#) and emailing it to ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au. The form and more information is on the Commission's website: <https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2018/06/crematoria-development>

The assessment of the cemetery was taken away from Campbelltown City Council on the request of the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (CMCT) by the Planning Minister, who then sent it to the Commission on 4 June 2018. The Department of Planning has now taken over the assessment for the Commission.

*'It's clear that the CMCT didn't like where the assessment was going. Council had sent it a letter detailing its concerns. We understand the CMCT never responded. It ran to the Minister asking him to take it away and then went to the media slamming local councils for getting in the way of development.'*¹

'The CMCT is a developer for the Sydney Catholic Archdiocese. There's a lot of money in cemeteries and this arrogant behaviour is part of the way it operates.'

*'The CMCT unfairly stacked the JRPP Hearing into the rezoning of the Varroville land in 2016 with funeral home operators and church hierarchy, locking out locals. Even directly affected landowners, including the owners of Varro Ville Homestead **in the middle of** the cemetery couldn't get a seat in the chamber. The SHA has written to the Commission asking it to ensure that this isn't repeated and that locals opposing the cemetery and those speaking for heritage and environment get their fair say.'*

'A government report issued in 2017 shows there's no shortage of burial space in the South West.'² This cemetery is to take the overflow from other parts of Sydney. If we don't speak out, Campbelltown will continue to be dumped on and we'll lose our Scenic Hills and our heritage.'

People can also make written submissions by email or post. The Commission's contact details are:

Email: ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

Post: Independent Planning Commission NSW, Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000.

More information will be put up on the Scenic Hills Association Inc. website: www.scenichills.org.au

Contact: Jacqui Kirkby 0411 873999, Scenic Hills Association Inc., 7th March 2019

¹ <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/two-contentious-cemeteries-get-taken-out-of-council-hands-20180619-p4zmae.html>

² See p.39: https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/143402/CCNSW-Metropolitan-Sydney-Cemetery-Capacity-Report.pdf