

Attachment A

Staff advice to Council in response to submissions to the draft Cemeteries Bylaw

Submitter	Submission	Staff advice to Council
<p>CEM_1 Bob Renton</p>	<p>Schedule 1: Days/Hours of service and burials winter period (1 April to 30 September) Monday - Saturday hours should be 9:00am - 4:00pm, 9:00am-2:00pm in a rural community not sufficient time if an afternoon burial.</p>	<p>For health and safety reasons, a reduction in burial hours, particularly in winter was proposed so that staff are not back-filling graves in low light and/or darkness.</p> <p>It normally takes approximately two hours to backfill a standard casket grave.</p> <p>This was a chief concern of Council's contractors and was well supported by the industry during the preparation of this bylaw.</p> <p>The proposed bylaw includes departure times from the cemetery following a burial also for this same purpose.</p> <p>The bylaw outlines that departure time from the cemetery must be no later than 3:30pm during winter (1 April to 30 September). This is only 30 mins shorter than what is proposed by the Tairua-Pauanui Community Board.</p>
<p>CEM_8 Mrs Margaret Jones</p>	<p>Mercury Bay (Ferry Landing) Cemetery regarding last item on all cemetery provisions. Saying no trees, shrubs or other plantings to be planted. I feel that existing plantings should be allowed to remain while they are kept in a neat and tidy way. They should not be removed until they are untidy or unkempt and obviously not cared for.</p>	<p>Existing plantings on graves at cemeteries was a chief concern of both Council's contractor and industry as plantings have become a health and safety issue. This is particularly so at the Mercury Bay (Ferry Landing) and Totara Memorial Park Cemeteries.</p> <p>Council staff have taken a compassionate approach and are working with the public as practicably as possible to address the issue and are targeting as a priority specific graves which are especially unkempt.</p> <p>In future, staff are hoping to be able to promote 'monumental cemeteries' as a different level of service to 'lawn cemeteries' so that families are able to choose a memorial option where plantings can occur.</p>
<p>CEM_10 Maurice Martin</p>	<p>I be allowed to purchase a plot of land for my burial at Mercury Bay</p>	<p>The previous bylaw prohibited the pre-purchase of plots at the Mercury Bay (Ferry Landing) Cemetery.</p> <p>The proposed bylaw has removed this specificity.</p> <p>Operationally, staff will not be permitting pre-purchase of casket plots at the Mercury Bay (Ferry Landing) Cemetery due to capacity constraints, however, pre-purchase of ashes plots can be accommodated and will be encouraged.</p> <p>Staff have attempted to contact the submitter to discuss the submitter's requirement but have been unsuccessful in speaking with the submitter, but messages have been left. Staff will continue to contact the submitter.</p>

Submissions to the draft Cemeteries bylaw regarding natural burials

Staff advice to Council with regards to the below submissions

These submissions are wider than the scope of the proposed bylaw.

Presently, the Council does not have specifically designated areas for natural burials. The bylaw makes clear (in clause 14.7) how a more natural-style burial can be accommodated currently in Council cemeteries.

Staff are aware of other Councils having specific natural burial areas, are aware of the work of naturalburials.co.nz and have been in contact with naturalburials.co.nz in the preparation of the proposed bylaw. Staff are concerned that the best practice promoted by naturalburials.co.nz does not necessarily take into account the Coromandel's topography and soil types and wish to further investigate burial depths and other matters further.

The Council will this year be commencing master planning for its cemeteries which is where levels of service and future planning for cemeteries is most appropriately discussed.

Staff suggest that the submitters who have submitted on this topic be advised that master planning will be undertaken and their input will be specifically be sought further at that stage.

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CEM_2 Ans Grose	<p>The members of The Natural Burial Group have been meeting recently to discuss, and now respectfully put forward a submission to Council regarding, an option for a more ecological way in which to be buried, for those who would appreciate this choice after their death.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We believe that a significant number of people in this area want a more ecological way in which to inter the deceased. • We request that a specific area be set aside in the cemetery for this purpose, rather than attempting to 'pepper-pot' natural burial graves throughout the other part of the cemetery. • Our group have been looking at forming a Trust and if this submission is accepted by Council, we would submit a proposal for the landscaping of this area for discussion by the Council. It is our desire to work with the Council. • This landscaping plan would be organised in such a manner as to create a pleasant, native environment - a woodland where people could walk and reflect as they remember their loved ones. • Burials in this area would be in 'shallow' graves (one metre deep) and the bodies would not have been embalmed. Caskets would be eco-friendly, made with a variety of materials but not with treated wood. • Members of Council may be aware that several other local Councils in N.Z have already developed the natural burial option; notably in Wellington, Hamilton, Auckland (and some others) and in all cases these have been successful ventures. • If any Council member wishes to read more detail about the philosophy of Natural Burials, we suggest the following website link..... www.naturalburials.com
CEM_3 Althea Hill	<p>The members of The Natural Burial Group have been meeting recently to discuss, and now respectfully put forward a submission to Council regarding, an option for a more ecological way in which to be buried, for those who would appreciate this choice after their death.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We believe that a significant number of people in this area want a more ecological way in which to inter the deceased. • We request that a specific area be set aside in the cemetery for this purpose, rather than attempting to 'pepper-pot' natural burial graves throughout the other part of the cemetery. • Our group have been looking at forming a Trust and if this submission is accepted by Council, we would submit a proposal for the landscaping of this area for discussion by the Council. It is our desire to work with the Council. • This landscaping plan would be organised in such a manner as to create a pleasant, native

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CEM_4 Jude Lay	<p>I respectfully put forward a submission to Council regarding, an option for a more ecological way in which to be buried.</p> <p>I believe that a significant number of people in this area want a more ecological way in which the deceased may be interred.</p> <p>I request that a specific area be set aside in the cemetery for this purpose.</p> <p>If any Council member wishes to read more detail about the philosophy of Natural Burials, the following link provides relevant information. www.naturalburials.com</p>
CEM_5 Colin Broadley	<p>To have 'natural burials' in the regular cemetery would, after normal decomposition time, illustrate the lack of knowledge on those responsible for that compromise decision.</p> <p>A separate 'natural burials' location would include a landscape architect to determine water flows as well as people, traffic and wind flows.</p> <p>Other major points will no doubt be outlined by other submitters to this proposed bylaw.</p>
CEM_6 Ms Gwenyth Wright	<p>I request that more attention be given to the natural burial option in the cemetery bylaw.</p> <p>We, The Natural Burial Group would like a designated area set aside for burials in shallow graves, with embalming in caskets or shrouds of untreated natural materials. This area would eventually become a woodland for everyone to enjoy as a place of quiet contemplation.</p> <p>The Group propose to form a trust to take care of such an area and work with Council on landscaping etc. Other Councils have developed this option and we believe a more ecological way to be buried.</p>
CEM_7 Vera Andrew	<p>I would like a natural burial in an area that would eventually be a nature park. I do not want chemicals in my body. I would also like a restful place for people to enjoy. I have seen an area in Melbourne that had dedicated shrubs and roses and it was beautiful. Also Motuake has a lovely area. Hopefully you are in time for me. Vera Andrew 91 years.</p>
CEM_9 Jeanette Fitzsimons	<p>I am a member of the Thames Natural Burials Group, a loose association of people wanting a more ecologically appropriate way of burying the dead. Thanks you for granting us two days' extension because of our email problems.</p> <p>I request:</p> <p>That a specific area of cemeteries, and in particular the cemetery at Totara, be set aside for natural burials in shallow graves (1metre deep) of unembalmed bodies in biodegradable coffins or shrouds with the area landscaped and planted as a whole in native species.</p>

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	<p>My reasons:</p> <p>My vision is of an area which is landscaped as a whole; a native woodland which would attract birds and be a pleasant and healing place for relatives to visit and reflect. This cannot be achieved with the current proposal to allow “natural” burials pepper-potted among other graves and surrounded by mown grass.</p> <p>The area would be planned, with grave sites purchased in the usual way, but not necessarily arranged in straight rows like a parking lot. The area chosen would be particularly suitable for close to waterways as there would be no pollution from embalming chemicals or treated timber caskets and the bodies would break down naturally into humus.</p> <p>We are looking at forming a Trust to work with the Council on mutually acceptable ways of carrying this out. Some of our members have considerable experience in landscaping and in establishing native plantings. We are well aware of the need to facilitate access and vegetation management in the design.</p> <p>I envisage the area being developed in small blocks with the landscaping planned from the beginning but only commenced when each block is full. Until then the area would be mowed by the Council with the rest of the cemetery and kept tidy. As each block is planted the Trust would take over management and the Council would save the mowing costs. In the long term it would need very little management and would come to resemble a natural forest.</p> <p>Several Councils in NZ have already developed the natural burial option; notably in Wellington, Hamilton, Auckland. More information about the underlying philosophy is at www.naturalburials.com</p>
CEM_11 Eric Zwaan	<p>I would like to see a natural burial site to be included in the long term plan for the Thames-Coromandel District Council.</p> <p>To include this option will be of little cost to the ratepayer as we "the Natural Burial Group" propose to form a trust to look after such an area.</p> <p>It is important to me for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't want any chemicals leaching into the soil • I like to have trees planted over my grave so that in time this becomes a park like area • There will be no need for chemicals and noisy lawnmowers to maintain this area. • The trees will help reduce carbon.