

Mercury Bay Cemetery - New Cemetery Concept Plan

TO	Mercury Bay Community Board
FROM	Allan Tiplady - Programme Manager
DATE	4 August 2015
SUBJECT	Mercury Bay Cemetery - New Cemetery Concept Plan

1 Purpose of Report

To present to the Mercury Bay Community Board a concept plan for development of the new cemetery at Kaimarama for consideration and approval.

2 Background

The Mercury Bay Community Board has acquired a 7 hectare block of land for the development of a new cemetery to serve the needs of the Mercury Bay area for the foreseeable future. The need for this has arisen from the existing facility at Ferry Landing nearing capacity and the consequent need to have a facility in place ready to go when it is full. It currently has a useful burial life of 3 - 4 years at the current burial rate of 9 burials per annum.

Stage one works have been completed at the new cemetery site, which include vehicle access, intersection establishment, landscape tree and boundary planting, re-fencing the boundary fences, and installation of a 30,000 litre water tank.

An initial concept plan was developed. This has required modification to ensure the development is in alignment with the physical configuration and facilities on the site and also views that have been expressed by various parties with an interest in the way the site is utilised for cemetery purposes.

The purpose of this report is to present the updated concept plan to the Mercury Bay Community Board for consideration and approval. The plan is **Attachment A**.

3 Issue

Issues that arose and that have influenced the update of the initial concept plan include:

- A change to the boundary of the land finally acquired with an area on the northern corner removed and an approximately equal area on the eastern side of the site added.
- The impact of power lines and telephone cables traversing the site in various locations. Particularly the need to avoid significant planting and other development under them, which would be a conflict in the future.
- Provision of sufficient car parking.
- The inclusion of the site as part of the World War 1 memorial tree planting project.
- Discussions with the RSA and the need to provide for their objectives.
- Development of a feature area at the promontory of the site.
- The possibility of a crematorium being developed on the site if this becomes viable in the future.
- The cemetery does not yet have an official name.

4 Discussion

The following discussion sets out the changes made to the plan to deal with each issue.

- The change in boundary has not impacted significantly. The final boundary lines are shown on the updated plans.
- The roading configuration has been changed to locate the access road beneath the power lines. This means that burial space has not been taken up with both roading and power lines, but they both use the same corridor. Also the planting planned, if it is near the power lines, will need to be species that do not interfere with them when grown. The detailed design will address whether these services can be "designed around" or if there will be a need to relocate or underground any of them.
- Car parking has been included along the sides of the access road in addition to the car park area included on the initial concept plan. This gives a total of approximately 100 car parks.
- The inclusion of the cemetery site as part of the WW1 memorial tree planting project is a positive initiative. Provision has been made for the planting of 2,000 trees, which are to be linked to the "Passchendaele" battle. These are located in areas that are low lying and would not have been suitable for laying burial beams.
- The identification of beams adjacent to the ridge for RSA burials. This has followed discussion with the RSA and an event on ANZAC Day 2015, which included the blessing of 20 memorial trees to acknowledge the soldiers from the Mercury Bay area who lost their lives in the battle and planting of the first two.
- Discussions with the RSA have also included development of a feature area proposed for the promontory of the site at the north eastern corner of the site where there is a superb outlook towards Whitianga Harbour and the town. Suggestions have been made that the area could also be of a more general nature with an RSA component. At this point the plan provides for the feature area. The form it takes will need further discussion and resolution.
- Provision has been made on the plan for a possible future crematorium. This would need to be tested with a full business assessment and analysis in the future to determine the point when the major investment cost would generate sufficient return to make it viable.
- The name of the cemetery does not have to be resolved at this point, but it is an issue that will need to be addressed before it is commissioned. The present cemetery's official name is "Mercury Bay Cemetery". If there is a desire to use this name for the new cemetery research will need to be done to determine if it is feasible to re-name the existing cemetery.
- As a concept plan it does not show high levels of detail at present. This will be done in the detailed design stage of the project. This will include the location of the burial beams, provision for burial of ashes in a variety of forms, children's area etc.

Following approval of the concept plan, detailed design will be prepared and referred back to the Board for final approval. **Attachment B** sets out the plan for implementation with a projected completion date of 31st March 2016.

The 2015/16 Annual Plan provides budget of \$543,331 for the Cemetery Stage 2 works. The detailed cost breakdown is **Attachment C**.

5 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the **Mercury Bay Community Board**:

1. Receives the report.
2. Approve the updated New Cemetery Concept Plan.
3. Approve development of detailed design and cost estimates.
4. Authorise the Area Manager and Board Chair to consult with the Mercury Bay RSA in relation to the new cemetery.

5. Report back to the Community Board when the detailed design is complete or if as a result of the detailed design investigations any significant changes are required from the concept plan.

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A *Mercury Bay Area New Cemetery Updated Concept Plan*

Attachment B *Mercury Bay Area New Cemetery Implementation Plan*

Attachment C *Mercury Bay New Cemetery Cost Estimate*

Attachment A
Attachment A - Mercury Bay Cemetery

Attachment B - Cemetery Project plan and timeline

Attachment C
Attachment C - Cemetery Stage 2 Works and costs