

3. OBJECTIVES

Objectives for this Management Plan are:

To support the provision of a respectful and sensitive burial and cremation service to the community.

To ensure all cemetery information systems maintain an accurate history of cemetery use and of Wellington's heritage and where appropriate provide this information to the public as a heritage/historic resource.

To ensure cemeteries and associated assets continue to fulfil their public health functions.

The function and place within Wellington's development of the two cemeteries are very different. For this reason the following objectives are specific to the Makara and Karori Cemeteries:

Makara: To manage and plan the operation of an active cemetery while enhancing the amenity of its environment.

Karori: To make the best use of the remaining space at Karori by offering a range of interment services while protecting the heritage values of the Cemetery and encouraging people to use the cemetery for passive recreation.

4. FUTURE VISION

In an attempt to define where the cemeteries are heading, this section provides a picture of how the cemeteries could look and how they might function in the future.

4.1 MAKARA CEMETERY

Makara Cemetery would become a shaded and sheltered area with specimen trees providing a counterpoint to the views across the open areas of gravesites. The cemetery would be tranquil and calm, retaining formality and respectfulness. Facilities for visitors and infrastructure would be of a high standard, designed for future demands. Expansion would be undertaken in a careful and considered manner, with detailed designs being developed in advance of any need for interments.

4.2 KARORI CEMETERY

Karori Cemetery is a combination of landscapes and a valuable heritage and historical asset. Protecting the heritage and historical values, and enhancing the natural elements of the cemetery are the priorities for improvement. There

will be areas of formal cemetery, where gravesites and access are maintained in a more traditional setting, and where visitors can experience the heritage of the site in an open setting. Trees will be used as features along with plantings and flower beds. Other parts of the Karori Cemetery will be maintained as bush and garden settings where gravesites can be discovered as part of a walk through a tree and bush environment. These areas will still be maintained and managed - but not to a formal standard.

Information is available so visitors can locate gravesites and find their way around the sites of heritage significance. The cemetery will also have linkages to the Outer Green Belt and into Otari-Wilton's Bush.

5. CURRENT AND PREDICTED RATES OF USE

In terms of burial (not including the disposal of ashes that requires less space and can be delivered in a variety of ways), Karori Cemetery has a number of plots available for use. As most of these are pre-purchased, and multiple interments are possible, it is difficult to specify the length of time that this cemetery will be able to cater for demand. Potentially thousands of plots could be used in this manner.

If a member of the family is buried at Karori, further interments in the grave are allowed. The profile of the cemetery has increased because of heritage, recreation, genealogical and amenity reasons, which has led to an increase in the popularity of the cemetery for burial.

5.1 CURRENT USAGE

Numbers of interments and cremations until 2001:

Burials	
Makara Cemetery	8,700 interments
Karori Cemetery	79,300 interments
Cremations	
Karori Crematorium	68,400
Total	156,400

Karori Cemetery has the greatest number of interments of any cemetery in New Zealand and the second highest total number of cremations.

It is predicted that rates of interment will continue at much the same levels in the immediate future, but will slowly decline due to the finite number of available plots. The availability of gravesites in the Karori Cemetery is dictated by current ownership and whether graves have space within them to accept more burials. There is no intention to close Karori for at least another 10 years. When Karori Cemetery does close there are still certain exceptions where people are allowed to be buried within the Cemetery (as set out under the Burial and Cremations Act) and memorials and