

## 8 Cemeteries and crematoria

The council has obligations to meet under the Health Act 1956 and the Burials and Cremation Act (BCA) 1964 to ensure that public health is protected.

Since the founding of Wellington City, a number of cemeteries have served the local community. This assessment relates to the two main public cemeteries that are open for burials - Karori and Makara Cemeteries.

Karori Cemetery is New Zealand's second largest burial ground, covering nearly 40 hectares. It is the final resting place of about 75,000 people. The Cemetery has the greatest number of interments of any cemetery in New Zealand and the second highest total number of cremations.

There are other cemeteries not covered by this assessment including Mount Street, Bolton Street, St. Stephen's Cemetery (Tawa), Johnsonville. There are also a number of church cemeteries which are not managed by Council including St Mathew's Church, Holy Trinity Church and the Catholic Church site - all in the Makara and Ohariu Valleys.

### 8.1 Communities

The community will be Wellington City as a whole.

Karori Cemetery has different sections for different cultural, social and spiritual communities including; Catholic, Anglican (Church of England), Public, Jews, Greeks, Russian orthodox and there are groupings of Chinese within the different sections.

### 8.2 Standards

Council provisions for cemeteries and crematoria come from the following documents;

Burials and Cremations Act (1964)

Health Act 1956

Cemetery and Cremation Bylaw

Historic Places Act 1993  
 Resource Management Act 1991  
 Building Act 1991  
 Reserves Act 1977  
 Asset Management Plan

### 8.3 Existing Services

Bolton Street Memorial Park is the original settlers' Bolton Street Cemetery, dating back to the earliest days of the city. The cemetery closed to burials in 1965. The only interments are of cremated remains that number a couple per year.

The Council's functioning cemeteries are Makara and Karori.

Karori cemetery was established in 1891 to replace the overcrowded Bolton Street Cemetery. Karori Cemetery filled quickly and by the 1950s had nearly reached maximum capacity.

Karori Cemetery's crematorium opened in 1909, and was New Zealand's first crematorium. It carries out about 450 cremations a year.

In 1940 the Board of Health required Council to locate another burial site for the Capital's population, as Karori Cemetery edged towards full capacity. Makara was the chosen location and the first burial occurred in 1965. The Cemetery is currently about one third full and has a large amount of undeveloped area available for future burials.

<b>Burials</b>	
Karori Cemetery	79,300
Makara Cemetery	8,700
Bolton Street	8,632
<b>Cremations</b>	
Karori Crematorium	68400

Table 11. Numbers of interments and cremations until 2001