

8.6 Cemeteries and Crematoria Risks

A risk assessment for Cemeteries and Crematorium is covered in the Parks and Gardens Business Unit's Risk Management Plan. This section is an overview of the predominant risks.

	Level of Risk
Lack of space	Moderate
Inadequate service	Low
Health risks of not providing service	Moderate
Fire Hazard	Low

These risks are being mitigated through;

- Capacity forecast monitoring ensure the cemeteries have sufficient space for demand
- Effective asset management planning assures levels of service are met
- No further health risks regarding the disposal of the dead in the Wellington area being identified by MoH and undertakers
- A fire suppression plan for each of the cemeteries will be developed to provide for defensible spaces, firebreaks, prioritisation of resources deployment and identification of appropriate suppression tactics.

8.7 The Future and Risk Mitigation

8.7.1 Demand

The current rates of interment will mean that it is likely that infrastructure and facilities will be required within 5-15 years to expand the capacity of Makara Cemetery within the developed area. Some of this expansion work will occur ahead of time to open up areas for special burial areas.

The availability of gravesites in the Karori Cemetery is dictated by current ownership and whether graves have space within them to accept more burials. 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 BCA 1964) and memorials and headstones can still be erected providing they meet the normal requirements set out by Cemetery Management.

The crematorium at Karori Cemetery will remain open as long as the following criteria are being met as outlined in the Cemeteries AMP;

- There is a current discharge consent for the crematorium
- There is no substantial upgrade or repair work required
- The crematorium is used on average 3.75 times per week.

If the crematorium fails to meet these criteria a review will be undertaken.

Makara Cemetery is one third full and there is a need to consider plans for opening new areas for burial within the cemetery, which take into account planting, road access and services. Expansion is planned to occur within 5-15 years.

8.7.2 Asset Management

There are sections of both cemeteries which could be incorporated into other management areas to allow for more consistent management. For example, some land areas of Karori Cemetery may be better managed as part of the Outer Green Belt. This would also mean it would come under other strategies such as GWRC's Pest Management Strategy and Council's Wet and Wild Policy.



Makara requires a maintenance regime to be established and maintained over future years. Infrastructure planning is also important to ensure the cemetery provides for the future needs. This will involve providing new facilities and services.

Options and Suitability

In terms of burial (not including the disposal of ashes which requires less space), Karori Cemetery has a number of plots available for use. As most of these are pre-purchased,

Makara cemetery



Memorials at Makara cemetery

and multiple interments are possible, it is difficult to specify the length of time that this cemetery will be able to cater for demand.

A number of burial options are currently employed;

- Subsequent interments- interment takes place on an existing grave to allow for the burial of other family members within the same plot.
- Disinterment- remains (followed by cremation) or ashes are removed from a grave. Remains are either transferred to another plot or removed from the Cemetery
- Grave re-use- remains are removed from a grave to make room for more family members. The grave is dug deeper and the remains returned. This is done when a plot is full but families wish to continue using it, to keep family members

together.

To extend the lives of both cemeteries there are new services that use less space for interments, which could be employed.

Core Drilling

New techniques for interring ashes into monumental plots are offering an increasingly professional service - with the ashes now being interred into the plot without undermining the foundations. The practice in the past was to dig out the front of a plot (in the pathway most often), then the ashes were interred from the front. This often resulted in damage to the path and in some cases erosion. These days the core-drilling machine cuts through concrete and makes a hole about 200mm in diameter. The hole is then capped off with either a concrete plug or a vase holder.

Rose Garden Development

Recently Karori Cemeteries memorial rose garden (ash interments) has been extended. An additional eight rose gardens have been added to this area. This has provided an additional 374 plots for interment and 74 plots for ash scatter. At the current rate of 80 interment plots per year and 15 memorial plots per year it is envisaged that the current space will last between three and a half to four years before an expansion to the northern

end of the rose garden area is needed. There are also several other small areas of land which could potentially be developed in a similar method; again this will be dependent on demand.

New Technologies and Options for Burial

A growing trend in the United Kingdom is the establishment of a natural burial site. This process involves the body being buried in an environmentally friendly manner with no embalming or casket. The body is enclosed with a shroud or cardboard coffin at a depth of one meter. The site is then covered with compost soil mix and planted with eco-sourced native plants. The overall aim is to restore an area back to native bush/park. These options for natural burial have yet to be approved by Council.

Gravesites maintenance

At Karori Cemetery, Council will accept that it needs to take increased responsibility for maintaining the gravesites, however individuals will still be encouraged to assist.

Security

At both cemeteries procedures will be implemented to limit damage to gravesites and other assets. This includes automatic gate locking after hours, staff awareness and security patrols when needed.

8.8 Outcomes of Consultation for Cemeteries and Crematoria

There were no submissions directed at Cemeteries and Crematoria

8.9 Future recommendations for Cemeteries and Crematoria

Makara Cemetery is one third full and there is a need to consider plans for opening new areas for burial within the cemetery, which take into account planting, road access and services.
