

Memorandum

30 August 2018

To: **Governing Body members**

Subject: **Vegetation management on open cemeteries**

From: Jenny Gargiulo, Senior Environmental Quality Assurance Specialist,
Community Facilities

Purpose

1. To inform the Governing Body members on operational practice for vegetation control within open cemeteries.

Summary

- This memo responds to the question regarding Waikumete Cemetery raised at the Governing Body meeting (on 23 August) about the operational practice for vegetation control at open cemetery sites.
- Vegetation management within active cemeteries is completed by Full Facilities contractors under Community Facilities, and by cemeteries staff under Community Services. On cemetery sites vegetation is controlled both mechanically and with agrichemicals.
- Governance over service levels at Waikumete Cemetery - an active cemetery - sits with the Governing body under the long-term plan.
- A historical service delivery issue that occurred at Waikumete Cemetery early in 2018 was investigated at the time and corrective actions were taken.

Context/Background

2. At the Governing body meeting on 23 August, images of vegetation control with agrichemical at Waikumete cemetery were submitted in public forum. A question was raised about who has the decision-making responsibility for agrichemical use within open cemeteries.
3. This memo is to inform the Governing Body members on the operational practice for vegetation control within open cemeteries.

Discussion

4. Vegetation management within active cemeteries is completed by Full Facilities contractors under Community Facilities, and by cemeteries staff under Community Services. On cemetery sites vegetation is controlled both mechanically and with agrichemicals. Due to the high-profile nature of some areas within cemeteries, some areas are maintained exclusively by mechanical methodology.
5. The photographs that were tabled at the Governing Body meeting relate to a historical service delivery issue that occurred in early 2018. The maintenance supplier for the site, Auckland Council's AIM Services, investigated the issue at the time, and have instituted mitigating measures so that their delivery of maintenance at the site meets contractual expectations.
6. Auckland Council's Weed Management Policy contains an objective to minimise agrichemical use and our full facilities maintenance contracts include a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) to reduce agrichemical usage (from baseline established in the first year).
7. The governance of Waikumete Cemetery - an active cemetery - sits with the Governing Body (under the allocation of decision making responsibility for non-regulatory activities policy in the Long-Term Plan). Therefore, the Governing Body could alter service levels to stop agrichemical use. This would, however, require further funding and investment.