

**2 April 2019**

**Waikumete Cemetery Expansion Project – feedback from the Waitakere Ranges Local Board**

1. The Waitakere Ranges Local Board supports expanding the burial capacity of Waikumete Cemetery to enable the cemetery to keep operating beyond its current capacity. A letter to the Environment and Community Committee is attached which outlines our position.
2. We support developing the lower value ecological areas and reducing the extent of the Significant Ecological Area overlay to protect only the areas with the highest ecological value.
3. The Waikumete Cemetery Reserve Management Plan 2015 (RMP) was completed just four years ago after going through a statutory process, which included consultation and public hearings. The RMP (Objective 1.1.2) provides policy direction for the cemetery expansion. We support the detailed planning work that is now underway to facilitate cemetery expansion into undeveloped land as envisaged by the RMP.
4. Those with friends, family and forebearers buried in the cemetery have a strong connection to the place. Keeping that connection to place is an important consideration.
5. Waikumete Cemetery is accessible to residents across the west, central isthmus area, and parts of the north, with good road and public transport connections. By contrast, a new cemetery is likely to be less accessible.
6. The entire cemetery is a Schedule A Historic Heritage site and is highly valued to the stories it can tell us about the foundation and growth of Auckland. The historic parts also constitute important heritage landscapes which can be enjoyed by visitors and the community.
7. In balance, we share the view that keeping the cemetery operational means it will attract the funding needed to ensure the reserve is well maintained and looked after so there is an overall benefit. Conversely once a cemetery closes the funding levels are cut and maintenance standards will fall off.
8. This is a very large cemetery within a growing residential area. It is critical it remains a safe area for visitors and surrounding communities.
9. A 10-storey apartment block with ground floor retail is due to be completed this year in Waikumete Road, just alongside the cemetery. This intensive residential development will mean considerably more people living right on the edge of the cemetery on the Glen Eden town centre side. It is a good opportunity to increase recreational use of the reserve by opening up the Waikumete Road entrances and locating interpretive signage nearby to attract people in and identify walkways and heritage features.
10. We support having a range of walking trails, although attention needs to be given to site lines and safety, with planting and vegetation management that allow passive surveillance without screening areas from view.
11. Recreational activities in the reserve should preserve the peace and quiet which is an essential part of the character of the cemetery. Activities which might be regarded as “noisy” or intrusive should be avoided.

11 February 2019

Cr Penny Hulse  
Chair  
Environment & Community Committee  
Auckland Council

By email – [Penny.Hulse@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Penny.Hulse@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

Dear Penny

The Waitakere Ranges Local Board would like to support the approach recommended in Item 8 of the agenda of the Environment and community Committee, 12 February 2019, Waikumete Cemetery Initial Public Engagement on Potential Development Zones.

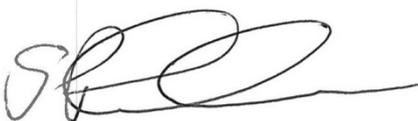
The Waikumete Cemetery is entirely within the boundaries of our local board although governance rests with the Governing Body.

We are cognisant of the limited life remaining for burials in the cemetery unless further land is made available. We believe it is essential to extend the life of the cemetery to serve the people of Auckland and because closed cemeteries prove very hard to fund and maintain. This is a very large cemetery (the largest in New Zealand) within a growing residential area. It is critical it remains a safe area for visitors and surrounding communities.

We support the recommendation to consult on Options 1 and 2 which propose development in lower value ecological areas. We believe it is the correct approach to exclude Zones 3-5 because of the higher ecological values and the historic values of this cemetery. The entire cemetery is a Schedule A Historic Heritage site and is highly valued to the stories it can tell us about the foundation and growth of Auckland. The historic parts also constitute important heritage landscapes which can be enjoyed by visitors and the community.

We would appreciate this letter be tabled at the meeting so that councillors know the recommendations have the support of the Waitakere Ranges Local Board.

Regards



Greg Presland  
**Chairperson**  
**Waitakere Ranges Local Board**