

From: Michael Harries [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 10:43 AM
To: Local Government Division (DPaC)
Subject: Review of Tasmanian Cemeteries Legislation

Att'n Cemeteries review team

Hello all

I am writing as secretary of the North West Environment Centre and wish to make a submission to the review as follows.

Our interest in the legislation review has come about because for some time now been looking into the possibility of establishing a natural burial ground in the North West of the State. We are concerned that an unintended consequence of the new legislation may be to prohibit us from working with local government to establish such a site.

Our Environment Centre has leased from Central Coast Council for over three decades a lovely bush area of about twenty five acres close to Penguin. In addition, we added to our lease an adjacent Council parcel of land of similar size. Our work to date has been to undertake soil and geology analysis, investigate demand for a Natural Burial Ground, research State legislation and establish a business plan to underpin such a venture. We have had early discussions with Council which to all accounts seem enthusiastic about the concept.

We are concerned that changes to the legislation may unintentionally prejudice our efforts. In particular, I refer to Part 4, division 1, line 35 which implies the land must be owned by the cemetery manager "*Subject to this and any other Act, the cemetery manager for a cemetery is taken to hold the land on which the cemetery is situated*". As we are leasees we consider this clause may exclude us from establishing an agreement with Council for a Natural Burial Ground.

In addition, the legislation appears to add substantial and onerous demands on cemetery managers yet the justification for such changes seem to be vague and lacking concrete evidence of significant management problems to date. Clearly the review of legislation has been necessary given potential and likely sales of Church land. We believe it would be a backward step if the new legislation effectively further restricted people's choice of where and how they and their loved ones may be buried.

I thank you for your consideration of our submission.

Regards

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Michael Harries
Secretary
North West Environment Centre
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