

# BEECHWORTH CEMETERY TRUST

## POLICY

<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Interment of Cremated Human Remains</b>
<b>Date adopted by Beechworth Cemetery Trust</b>	<b>21 May 2018</b>
<b>Policy Review Date</b>	<b>April - June 2020</b>

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to set out the framework for the interment of cremated human remains in the Beechworth Public Cemetery.

### **Legislative requirements:**

The *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003*, Part 6 Division 1, Section 77(4)(b) establishes the power for a Cemetery Trust to impose terms and conditions on the entitlements of a right of interment for interring human remains.

The Department of Health and Human Services have advised that where a Trust develops a policy to manage operating procedures of the cemetery which does not alter or conflict with the Model Rules for the Cemetery the Trust does not need to have the Policy approved by the Governor in Council.

The Trust has reviewed this Policy and has not sought approval from the Governor in General as the Policy does not conflict or alter the Model Rules for the Trust.

### **Background:**

The interment statistics maintained by the Beechworth Cemetery Trust shows an increasing trend of cremated human remain interments in graves many of these being graves located in the General Cemetery. Whilst many of the graves in the General Cemetery are unmarked when cremated human remains are placed in graves with existing monuments unforeseen difficulties can arise that may:

- Compromise or damage the existing headstone or monument; or
- Make it difficult to place the cremated human remains in the proposed agreed location; or
- It is not able to be undertaken by digging at the edge of the existing grave/monument; or
- Require the removal of the existing monument, headstone or ledger of a grave

As graves can contain up to four (4) interments of cremated human remains, digging a chute/hole to place the container within the grave, the Trust needs to have the ability to determine whether it is practical to place the container in the standard method.

The approach used to date for interment of cremated human remains (ashes) in plots already used is to dig a chute/hole at the head of the existing monument/grave. The ashes container is then placed in the chute/hole so that it is located in the perimeter of the grave.

Communication of how ashes are interred can lead to different levels of expectations which may lead to people being unsatisfied with the approach taken by the Trust.

The process for ashes interment is to:

- Provide written advice to the client seeking the interment outlining the standard method used for ashes interment;
- Advise the client seeking the interment that the Trust will only inter cremated Human remains if they are contained within the standard container, unless otherwise approved in writing by the Trust, or if the smaller container is required due to the interment location in the memorial wall that has smaller niches;
- Obtain written acknowledgement from the client that they understand the method to be used and that the Trust may, due to unforeseen circumstances have to change the approach taken;
- Liaise with the client if there is a likelihood of an increase cost to perform the ashes interment above the standard interment fee as a result of unforeseen difficulties eg. Removal of ledger; and
- Advise the client seeking the interment if the plot is not suitable to have ashes interred using the standard method.

### **Consultation:**

During the development of this Policy the Trust Secretaries consulted with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Cemeteries and Crematorium Association of Victoria as well as a desktop scan of other Cemetery Trust websites. There was no formal community consultation during the development of this policy.

### **Publicity:**

This policy will be available on the Beechworth Cemetery website and made available on request.

### **Implementation of Policy:**

The Trust authorise the Chairperson and the Secretary to implement this policy, and where applicable consistent with any strategic documents or plans for the Beechworth Cemetery Trust.

### **Review History:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Review Details</b>	<b>Action</b>