

20 April 2017

Proposed memorial park – Old Cooma Rd and Burra Rd

Queanbeyan-Palerang's population is set to grow from around 56,000 to more than 76,000 over the next 15 years. With this growth comes pressure on infrastructure and services that are provided to the community.

One service that is nearing capacity is Queanbeyan cemetery. Queanbeyan currently utilises the Lanyon Drive cemetery, however that is expected to reach capacity within the next five years.

Council has been aware of the need to expand these services and has been investigating potential sites across the region over the past four years. The need for a new cemetery was first raised in Council's 2009-13 Delivery Program and has been the subject of workshops with councillors in 2009 and 2015.

In February 2017, Council resolved in closed session to progress with the acquisition of a site at the corner of Old Cooma Rd and Burra Rd, pending the outcome of some preliminary investigations.

Prior to contracts exchanging and a financial commitment being made, Council needed to undertake some preliminary investigations to get an understanding of whether plans for a memorial park would be viable. These preliminary investigations have now been completed and Council is in a position to finalise the purchase of the land. Council was unable to disclose the proposed use of the site as it had entered into a confidentiality agreement with the owners of the land until contracts were exchanged.

Council's plans are to construct a modern-style memorial park on a small portion of the 30ha property. A memorial park is designed in the same fashion as a passive recreational park, with an emphasis on landscaping, tree planting and possible water features. There would be extensive buffer planting around the boundaries and restored natural landscape where appropriate. The landscape would consist of a series of outdoor rooms with varying themes, rose gardens, avenues of trees, formal landscaping etc. It allows people a choice of where they are buried or the ashes placed. To loved ones, a visit to the memorial park is akin to visiting a park or botanic garden and nearby residents will see a landscaped park. The Burra Rd site is sufficient to cover the needs of the Queanbeyan-Palerang region for 50-80 years based on projected interment rates.

The development of a memorial park is not yet approved and requires significant planning and engagement with the community which is expected to take 4-5 years to finalise. Some of the steps required include:

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- Establish planning requirements for proposed memorial park – during 2017
- Development of a concept design (community consultation) – expected to be undertaken in 2017-18
- Environmental studies – to occur alongside concept design
- Rezoning of land to accommodate additional land use within the existing zone (community consultation) – to follow formal process as defined by NSW State Government, timing to be confirmed.
- Development application (community consultation) – following rezoning
- Assessment of development application.

Throughout the abovementioned steps, matters such as traffic, amenity, environmental impact, impact on nearby properties and much more will be considered and information will be provided to the community. The progression of matters listed above will be considered by an elected Council which will return in September 2017.

Should Council not obtain development approval for a memorial park, Council would be in a position to offer the property for sale.

This letter has been sent to nearby residents to provide an overview of the proposal, highlight the process that Council will be undertaking and show the steps at which the community will be engaged. We are not currently undertaking a consultation process, however to ensure you are advised of upcoming consultation regarding the proposed development, please go to <http://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/> and register.

Yours sincerely,



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