

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This policy outlines the District Council of Mount Remarkable's objectives in respect of Council owned and operated cemeteries, natural burial grounds and crematoria.
- 1.2 It has regard to the *Burial and Cremation Act 2013* (the Act) and the *Burial & Cremation Regulations 2014* under which Council cemetery authorities must meet revised requirements for the operation and regulation of cemeteries, natural burial grounds and crematoria within the Council area.
- 1.3 Council recognises that these community cemeteries are the resting place of many of the district's pioneer and respected citizens and will efficiently and effectively manage them in a caring and equitable manner to meet the needs of its community.

2. Definitions

2.1 Words and phrases used in this policy have the same meaning as they do in the *Burial and Cremation Act 2013* and/or *the Burial & Cremation Regulations* 2014

3. **Principles**

- 3.1 The policy applies to cemetery and natural burial facilities located, owned or operated by Council in:
 - Appila Amyton Booleroo Centre Bruce Hammond Melrose Port Germein Willowie Willowie Wilmington Wirrabara
- 3.2 Each cemetery and natural burial ground is overseen by the Council and the management of burials and granting of interment rights in Council facilities is delegated to its administration.
- 3.3 Existing reservations issued by Council prior to the development of this policy will be honoured by Council and renewal of interment rights will have regard to the basis on which the original burial sites have been allocated.
- 3.4 The cemeteries and natural burial grounds will be segregated into areas based on religion or ethnicity in accordance with section 22 of the Act. Council will have regard to the customs and specific needs of all those who apply for



an interment permit.

- 3.5 In considering applications and/or renewal of interment rights Council will have regard to:
 - 3.5.1 the Cemetery's local historical significance as a burial place for many of the pioneers of the area.
 - 3.5.2 the need for each cemetery site to be managed and maintained at a standard consistent with its significance and as an important family memorial place.
 - 3.5.3 remaining interment sites available, recognising relatives of people already interred in the cemetery, people with a long association to the area, and those who have made contributions to the well-being and social fabric of the community.

4. Issue of interment rights

- 4.1 Interment rights may be granted by Council for one or more sites within a cemetery or natural burial ground on completion of an application and payment of the appropriate fee.
- 4.2 The interment right gives the holder the exclusive right to bury or inter human remains in the allotted site.
- 4.3 The holder of the interment right may use the site only for interment of human remains consistent with this Policy and the *Burial and Cremation Act 2013*.
- 4.4 Council will grant interment rights in perpetuity.
- 4.5 Interment rights may be issued for the following:
 - 4.5.1 Grave sites (for new interments) for a multiple depth system of burial

The site can be used to accommodate family members and the term of the interment right is 100 years with renewal rights for a second period on the application of an interment right holder or authorised person. (See section 30 of the Act.)

4.5.2 Mausoleum

Council may approve an application for construction of an above ground structure subject to Council specifications

4.5.3 Memorial or niche walls

The term of an interment right for ashes, in a memorial or niche wall is for a period of 100 years with a second period available on the application of an interment right holder or authorised person. (See section 30 of the Act.)



4.5.4 Vaults

Council may on application approve the construction of a water tight vault (distinct from a mausoleum) of either single or multiple capacity depth. Approval will be subject to soil and ground water conditions, design and specifications.

Construction will be in accordance with the specifications provided and subject to supervision of Council's building supervisor or a contractor approved by Council. (See section 30 of the Act.)

4.5.5 Scattering of ashes

No interment right is required for scattering of cremated remains in a cemetery or natural burial ground. However, prior approval of the Council is required. (See section 36 of the Act.)

5. Renewal or transfer of interment rights

- 5.1 Renewal
 - 5.1.1 At the end of the interment right period Council may, on application of the interment right holder or an authorised person, renew or extend an interment right on payment of an appropriate fee. (See section 32 of the Act).
- 5.2 Transfer or surrender of interment rights
 - 5.2.1 A person/family holding an interment right for an unused burial site or memorial wall may seek approval of Council to surrender (section 34 of the Act) or transfer (section 33 of the Act.) the right to another person/family. (See Attachment 2) Council will not unreasonably withhold its approval. However, administrative costs for the surrender, formal transfer and recording in Council's register will be at the cost of the holder of the interment right in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Regulations.
- 5.3 Lost documentation
 - 5.3.1 Council may issue a replacement (copy) of an interment right upon receipt of a Statutory Declaration by the interment right holder or an authorised person which sets out the circumstances in which the formal documentation was lost.

6. Reuse of interment sites

- 6.1 In the event that a right of interment is not renewed Council will take reasonable steps, in writing, to advise a holder of the right of the impending expiration of the right twelve months prior to its expiration.
- 6.2 If the holder of the right does not renew the interment right by the expiration



date:

- 6.2.1 for a burial site: the interment site is deemed to have expired and Council has the right to reuse the site in accordance with the legislation
- 6.2.2 for an ashes interment site: the holder of the interment right may:
 - a. instruct the Council to move the interment remains to an unmarked location in the cemetery, or
 - b. collect the remains for private disposal and Council has the right to reuse the site in accordance with the legislation.

7. Disposal of human remains

- 7.1 On Rural Land
 - 7.1.1 In accordance with sub-section 8(2) of the Act, the Council will receive applications and may grant permission for a burial on private land outside the boundary of a township. The request must be made on the Council's application form.
- 7.2 Documentation
 - 7.2.1 All applications for a right to inter bodily remains in a Council cemetery or natural burial ground must be accompanied by appropriate documentation in accordance with section 12 of the Act and Regulation 9 of the Regulations
 - 7.2.2 Council cannot allow disposal of human remains without seeing (and recording the details of):
 - a. a certificate of identification for the body; and
 - b. a partial certificate of cause of death; or
 - c. a disposal authorisation; or
 - d. an authorisation to dispose of human remains granted by the Minister or the Registrar under section 12 of the Act.
 - 7.2.3 All interments in Council owned/operated cemeteries or natural burial grounds are to be approved by Council on the application form appended to this Policy.
 - 7.2.4 Interments are to be undertaken by the funeral company specified on the Burial Authority. Preparation of the interment site is to be undertaken by Council or a contractor authorised by the Council.



- 7.3 Register/Records and Plans
 - 7.3.1 Under section 53 of the Act, the Council as the "relevant authority" must maintain, and make available to the public, documentation for each cemetery or natural burial ground.
 - 7.3.2 Copies of the registers and plans of the cemetery are available for inspection by members of the public during Council office hours.
- 7.4 Access to an Interment Site
 - 7.4.1 A holder of an interment right (including those who have existing Interment Rights) is required to comply with the Act and the approval given by Council, prior to:
 - a. interment of human remains in a cemetery or natural burial ground
 - b. reopening an interment site containing bodily remains
 - c. removing or relocating human remains.
 - 7.4.2 The process of excavating and/or modification of a site must be undertaken by a Council employee or a contractor approved by the Council. Confirmation of a burial site must be verified by Council's Administration prior to any excavation or other work on the site

8. Memorials

- 8.1 Headstones or Plaques
 - 8.1.1 Headstones or plaques are not to exceed the dimensions of individual plots whether single or joint. Monuments may encompass a maximum of two adjacent sites
 - 8.1.2 If a larger plaque or headstone size is required, application may be made to Council for approval. Council may issue approval, subject to specific conditions.
- 8.2 Installation of Headstones or Plaques
 - 8.2.1 Only Council staff or a contractor approved by Council shall install a headstone or plaque.
- 8.3 Ornaments
 - 8.3.1 All memorabilia requires to be securely affixed to the site/plot. Ornaments, vases, aged flowers and wreaths may be removed by Council from sites, if Council forms the opinion that the items have deteriorated to the extent that



- 8.4 Lighting
 - 8.4.1 Solar powered lights or spikes on individual sites are prohibited
- 8.5 Ownership and Maintenance of Memorials
 - 8.5.1 The ownership of plaques, monuments and other approved structures remains with the Interment right holder. The Council is not responsible for the upkeep, repair or maintenance of any memorial [unless the internment right holder has separately contracted with the Council for this purpose].
 - 8.5.2 In accordance with section 41 of the Act, the Council may issue a notice on the owner of a memorial requiring repairs, removal or reinstatement of the memorial.
 - 8.5.3 Council may act to remove any structure that it deems to be unsightly, in poor condition or dilapidated or repair it consistent with section 41 of the Act at the owner's cost.
- 8.6 Power to Dispose of Unclaimed Memorials
 - 8.6.1 Council may, after giving notice in accordance with section 42 of the Act, remove and dispose of the memorial.
- 8.7 Monuments and Memorials in Natural Burial Grounds
 - 8.7.1 In natural burial grounds, permanent memorials will not be installed on individual interment sites. However Council will allocate a small area of the natural burial ground for installation of approved memorabilia.
- 8.8 Monuments
 - 8.8.1 A minimum of 100mm spacing between monuments must be provided at all times.

9. Service fees and charges

9.1 Council will annually determine a "Schedule of Fees and Charges" for services provided at cemeteries and natural burial grounds as part of its budget process.

10. Neglected cemeteries and natural burial grounds

10.1 If Council is of the opinion that a cemetery or natural burial ground within its area is in a neglected condition or fails to comply with the requirements of the Act the Council may, by notice in writing, require the governing body to remedy the conditions of neglect or non-compliance. If those remedial works are not undertaken in accordance with the Act the Council may undertake the work and recover the costs from the governing body or Interment right holder.



(See section 46 of the Act.).

10.2 The Authority on which the notice is issued can apply to the District Court for a review of the decision.

11. Authorised officers

11.1 Council may appoint authorised officers to ensure administration and enforcement of section 59 of the Act.



12. Document administration and control

Policy title:	Cemeteries and Natural Burial Grounds
Policy number:	04.40
Policy type:	Council / Public
Responsible officer:	Director Community & Corporate
First issued / adopted:	19 May 2015, reference 082-2015
Review period:	Reviewing within 12 months following the conclusion of a periodic election, inline with legislative changes or by resolution of Council.
Last reviewed:	18 May 2021, reference [103-2021] 18 April 2023 [070-2023]
Next review date:	By November 2027
Current Version:	Version 5
Date revoked:	n/a
Applicable legislation:	Burial and Cremation Act 2013 Burial and Cremation Regulations 2014 Local Government Act 1999 Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016
Related documents:	 Interment Right (Attachment 1) Transfer of Interment Right (Attachment 2) Burial Application (Attachment 3) Burial Application for permission to inter bodily remains on land other than a cemetery or natural burial ground (Attachment 4) Template Renewal Notice under the Burial and Cremation Act 2013 (Attachment 5)
Public consultation required / undertaken:	No
Availability	 This Policy is available for inspection at the Council office and any person may obtain a copy of this Policy upon payment of the fee fixed by Council in accordance with Council's Fees and Charges adopted each financial year. It is also available on Council's website <u>mtr.sa.gov.au</u>. Any grievance in relation to this policy or its application should be forwarded in writing to the Chief Executive Officer of the Council.
File reference:	W:\4. Policy Manuals\Current Policy Manual



INTERMENT RIGHT

ATTACHMENT 1

District Council of Mount Remarkable hereby grants interment rights to:

Holder")

of

for the exclusive right of interment of human remains / interment of cremated human remains / memorialisation without human remains at ______ Cemetery in the site designated below for a term of ______ years.

The Interment Right Holder may extend this interment right for further terms.

The interment right is granted in accordance with the *Burial and Cremation Act 2013* and is subject to the rules of the Authority which are in force during the term of this interment right. The interment right can be extended for a further period not exceeding the initial term for payment of an approved fee.

The Interment Right Holder or an authorised person can apply to have the Interment Right transferred to another party.

AS FROM _____ EXPIRING ON _____

TYPE OF INTERMENT RIGHT

SITE LOCATION _____

Interments at site

Names	Interment Type	Interment Date	Interment Level

Signed (delegated officer)

Date



TR/	ANSFER OF INTERM	IENT RIGHT	ATTACHMENT 2
Appl	ication for transfer of inte	erment right	
Type right	e of interment		
Site locat	tion:		
Curr of:	ently in the name(s)		
		ll details for either A (curren son) below and sign in fron	
		gistered interment right hold	der, do solemnly and
		eclare that: (full name)	(date of birth
	of		(address
	(telephone)	(mobile)	
	(email)		
	(And) I,	(full name)	(date of birth
	(telephone)	(mobile)	
	(email)		
do h OR	ereby authorise the trans interment right.	fer of my rights, title and int	erest in this
	B. I, the authorised perso	n, do solemnly and sincerel	y declare that:
	I,	(full name)	(date of birth
	of		(address
		(mobile)	
	(email)		
			10 Pa



Being a person having the right to exercise a Power of Attorney for the
interment right holder. (Please attach a copy of the Power of Attorney) :
OR

Being a person entitled to exercise the rights granted to the interment right holder upon the interment right holder's death, and being the <u>highest ranking person</u> of entitlement in relation to the deceased interment right holder, and having provided proof of my identity (Council has the right to determine the criteria to determine the relationship and entitlement of any person claiming a substituted right)

do hereby request the interment right to be transferred to the new interment right holder as detailed below.

I, the CURRENT INTERMENT RIGHT HOLDER/S or AUTHORISED PERSON, understand that the said interment right (*Interment Right Number:*_____) is unencumbered and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1936*.

Signed:	(interment right holder of
Signed:	authorised person
olgrica.	(Interment right holder 2

This section must be signed in front of a Justice of the Peace or Commissioner of Affidavits.

Declare and subscribed at

this	day of	Year
-		

Before me (Full

Name)

A Justice of the Peace or JP/Commissioner)

(Signed

Commissioner for Affidavits ____



NEW INTERMENT RIGHT HOLDER	(1 ONLY – PLEASE INSE	RT FULL DETAILS)
Title: Dr Mr Ms Mrs	Miss	
Full Name:		
of:		
Suburb:		
Date of Birth:		
Tel (W)		
Mobile		
Email:		
hereby accept the transfer of the at NEW INTERMENT RIGHT HOLDER	oove interment right to m	iy name.
•	\	

holder)

Signed: ____ _ Date:_



ATTACHMENT 3

BURIAL APPLICATION

BURIAL AUTHORITY

This form <u>must</u> be completed by the interment right holder *or* a person authorised to exercise the interment right in accordance with Section 35 of the *Burial and Cremation Act 2013* (see overleaf).

DECEASED DETAILS

Title: 🗌 Dr 🗌 Mr	☐ Ms ☐Mrs	☐ Miss	Gender: 🗌 M 🗌 F		
First Name/s:Last Name:					
Date of Birth:	Date of Death: _		Age:		
Last Known Address:					
Suburb:	Sta	te:	Postcode:		
The deceased person died of Yes □No	natural causes				
Authorisation for the Certificate of Identification was issued by:					
INTERMENT LOCATION – p	lease select ONI	EONLY			
A Council to allocate r	new interment rig	jht			
B Existing location atCemetery					
Name of right holders/s		F	Right Number:		
Location Details:			_Expiry Date:		
Current Address:					
Suburb:	St	ate:	Postcode:		
Date of Birth:					
Existing interments at Site:]Yes □No				
Extension of right required:]Yes 🗌No	Number of ye	ears to be		

District Council of Mount Remarkable

INSTRUCTION FOR INTERMENT – please enter details and indicate as applicable			
Interment Depth 🗌 1 🗌 2 Lift and	Deepen Required	🗌 Yes 🛛	
No			
Coffin Size (in millimetres) Length		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	Х	Width	
Coffin Type Coffin Cas			
Number of Previous Interments and Depth	S:		
Name of Funeral Company:			
Arranger Name (please print)	Arranger Signature:	<u> </u>	
AUTHORISED PERSON DETAILS			
Title: Dr Mr Ms Mrs	Miss Gender:	M	
F Date of Birth:			
First Name/s:	Last Name:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Address:			
/ \u000.			
Suburb:		Postcode:	
	_State:		
Suburb:	_State: _Tel (H)	Mobile	
Suburb: Tel (W)	State: Tel (H) Email: erstand my rights and res der or a person authorise conditions listed below.	Mobile	

YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

New interment right

- If a new interment right is being requested in order to facilitate this burial, the Authorised Person will become the interment right holder.
- In signing this Burial Authority, the Authorised Person acknowledges receipt of a Statement by the Funeral Director if a new interment is required.



• An interment rights will only be granted to one interment right holder.

Authority to exercise the interment right

- Only the interment right holder may exercise an interment right, provided that if the interment right holder is deceased the interment right may be exercised by the person representative of the deceased interment right holder (by definition the Executor or Administrator of the Deceased Estate) in accordance with section 35 of the *Burial and Cremation Act 2013*.
- If there is no personal representative the interment right may be exercised in accordance with regulation 32 of the *Burial and Cremation Regulations 2014* as follows:
 - o by the spouse of domestic partner of the deceased interment right holder; or
 - if there is no surviving spouse or domestic partner by the eldest living relative of the deceased interment right holder in the following descending order of priority:
 - a child;
 - a grandchild or great-grandchild;
 - a brother or sister;
 - a parent;
 - a grandparent;
 - an aunt or uncle;
 - a nephew or niece;
 - a cousin;
 - any other blood relative



BURIAL APPLICATION

ATTACHMENT 4

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO INTER BODILY REMAINS ON LAND OTHER THAN A CEMETERY OR NATURAL BURIAL GROUND

Application can only be made for sites outside township boundaries.

DECEASED DETAILS

Title: Dr Mr	Ms Mrs Miss	Gender: 🗌 M 🛛 🗍 F	
First Name/s:	Last Name:		
Date of Birth:	Date of Death:	Age:	
Last Known Address:			
Suburb:	State:	Postcode:	
The deceased person died of	natural causes		
Yes No			
	e of Identification was issued by:		
Autorisation for the Octanical			
INTERMENT LOCATION AN	D DETAILS		
Address of property:			
Suburb/Township:	State:	Postcode:	
General description of the are used:	a to be		
Coordinates of the location:			
Intended interment depth:			
· _	(Interment must be of at lea	ist 1 metre) at a depth	
Please attach a map showing the intended location of the grave or natural burial site. Identify any features and estimate the distance to surrounding structures. NB The site must be at least 20 metres away from any building, structure or water well. Attached Yes No			



LAND OWNER DETAILS	3
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Title: Dr Mr Ms Mrs	Miss		
First Name/s:	_Last Name:		
Address:			
Suburb:	_State:	_Postcode:	
Tel (W)	_Tel (H)	_Mobile	
Relationship to Deceased (if any):	_Email:		
NB Proof of permission of the land own Yes No	ner must be provided.	Attached	
FUNERAL DIRECTOR DETAILS			
Name of Funeral Company:			
Arranger Name (please print)	Arranger Signature: _		
AUTHORISED PERSON DETAILS			
Title: Dr Mr Ms Mrs	Miss Gender:	□ M	
First Name/s:	_Last Name:		
Address:			
Suburb:		Postcode:	
Tel (W)	_Tel (H)	_Mobile	
Relationship to Deceased:	_Email:		
I acknowledge that I am a person authorised to exercise the interment in accordance with the conditions listed below.			
Authorised Person's Signature:	Date:	·	
NB Copies of documentation which me of section 12.2 of the <i>Burial and Cremat</i> Regulation 9 must be provided. Yes No		Attached	



TEMPLATE RENEWAL LETTER

ATTACHMENT 5

[Current Date]

Name Postal Address Suburb State Postcode

Interment right number

Dear

Interment Right Expiry Notification

In accordance with section 32 of the *Burial and Cremation Act 2013* of South Australia and regulation 30 of the *Burial and Cremations Regulations 2014*, District Council of Mount Remarkable *[insert Cemetery Name]*, is required to provide you with at least twelve months written notice of the impending expiry of an interment right.

We are writing to you as you are the interment right holder for an interment right number [number] being the site for [name] to advise that the interment right will expire on [date].

The interment right was issued by District Council of Mount Remarkable *[insert Cemetery Name]*, and the details are set out below.

Interment right number: Issue date: Expiry date: Site:

In the event of an interment right expiry, District Council of Mount Remarkable *[insert Cemetery Name]*, makes a conscious effort to contact interment right holders and nominated alternative contacts for interment rights which are issued by [*Council /Cemetery* Name]. This may include a renewal notification by post, the placement of an expiry notice on the site and a public notice.

Your Current Contact Details

Please see below for the details we currently have for you on our records. It would be appreciated if you could correct any of the fields which contain incorrect information

Full			
name			
Address			
Date of	Work	Home	
Birth	phone	phone	
Mobile	Email		

Kind regards,

[Insert name of delegated officer]



Interment right Number [Current Date]

Your options

Please find below information in regards to the options that are available to you.

RENEWAL OPTION payment by VISA Cheque enclosed direct debit

This interment right may be renewed for a minimum of five years with a maximum renewal of fifty years. The interment right renewal will apply from the **date of expiry**.

The minimum renewal amount for interment right number XXXX is \$xxxx (based on five years at \$xxxx per year).

Please note that prices are valid until [DATE]

Should you wish to proceed with the interment right renewal, please complete and return the enclosed renewal form with payment details.

Please note that renewal of the interment right does not automatically entitle you to be the legal interment right holder. This requires a Transfer of Interment Right Declaration to be completed. If you wish to confirm your eligibility to transfer the interment right, please contact District Council of Mount Remarkable *[insert Cemetery Name]*.

□ SURRENDER OPTION

In accordance with section 34 of the *Burial and Cremation Act,* an interment right may be surrendered by the interment right holder. If this option is chosen, District Council of Mount Remarkable *[insert Cemetery Name]*, will contact you to explain the process.

IF NO ACTION IS TAKEN

In accordance with section 38(2)(b) of the *Burial and Cremation Act*, if the interment right is not renewed by the expiry date, the site may be re-used.

If the interment right not renewed, the cemetery may remove any memorial and dispose of it as it sees fit and re-use the site. We will contact you again before these actions are taken and an advertisement will be placed in a newspaper circulating throughout the State to inform the public of the intention to re-use the site.

Please indicate by ticking the appropriate option box and returning this correspondence to District Council of Mount Remarkable [insert Cemetery Name]. This will generate a response to forward the appropriate documentation to your confirmed contact details.