



***CEMETERIES ACT 1986***

***Shire of Merredin***

**CEMETERIES LOCAL LAW**

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## ***Cemeteries Act 1986***

### *Shire of Merredin*

## **CEMETERIES LOCAL LAW**

The Cemeteries Local Law was amended in 2017, by Council resolution in March 2017 (CMRef 81950) and Gazettal on 26 April 2017 (Special Issue No. 82).

### **PART 1 - PRELIMINARY**

#### **1.1 Citation**

This Local Law may be cited as the *Cemeteries Local Law 2002*.

#### **1.2 Interpretation**

In this Local Law unless the context otherwise requires:

“**Act**” means the *Cemeteries Act 1986*;

“**animal**” means any animal but does not include an assistance animal;

“**ashes**” means so much of the remains of a dead body after the due processes of cremation as may be contained in a standard sized cremation urn;

“**assistance animal**” has the meaning given under section 9(2) of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth);

“**authorised officer**” means an employee of the Board authorised by the Board for the purposes of performing any function or exercising any power conferred upon an authorised officer by this Local Law;

“**Board**” means the *Shire of Merredin*;

“**burial**” has the same meaning as given in the Act;

“**cemetery**” means the Shire of Merredin cemeteries, which the Governor, by order, has placed under the care, control and management of the Board;

“**CEO**” means the chief executive officer for the time being, of the Board;

“**dead body**” has the same meaning as given to it in the Act;

“**funeral**” includes the burial of a dead body and all associated processions and ceremonials but does not include so much of the ceremonial that is solely a religious rite;

**“Funeral Director”** means a person holding a current funeral director’s licence;

**“grant”** means a grant issued by the Board, of an exclusive right of burial in a grave;

**“grave”** means a specified area of the cemetery for burial;

**“memorial”** means a memorial plaque or memorial as described in this local law or as otherwise approved by the Board;

**“monumental mason”** means a person holding a current monumental mason’s licence;

**“personal representative”** means the administrator or executor of an estate of a deceased person;

**“set fee”** refers to fees and charges set by a resolution of the Board and published in the Government Gazette, under section 53 of the Act;

**“single funeral permit”** means a permit issued by the Board under section 20 or 21 of the Act which entitles the holder to conduct at the cemetery a funeral of a person named in the permit.

### 1.3 Repeal

The following Local Law is repealed:-

- By - law Relating to the Merredin Public Cemeteries, published in the Government Gazette of 9 March 1972, as amended.

### 1.4 Application

Unless otherwise provided, these local laws apply to each of the Board's public cemeteries within the Shire of Merredin.

## PART 2 - ADMINISTRATION

### 2.1 Powers and Functions of CEO

Subject to any directions given by the Board, the CEO shall exercise all the powers and functions of the Board in respect of the cemetery.

## PART 3 - APPLICATION FOR FUNERALS

### 3.1 Application for Burial

- (1) A person may apply for approval to bury a dead body in the cemetery in the form determined by the Board from time to time.
- (2) An application under subclause (1) is to be accompanied by the set fee.

### 3.2 Application for Cremation *(Deleted 2017)*

### **3.3 Applications to be Accompanied by Certificates etc**

All applications referred to in clauses 3.1 and 3.2 shall be accompanied by either a medical certificate of death or a Coroner's order of burial, and a certificate issued under clause 3.4, in respect of the body.

### **3.4 Certificate of Identification**

(1) After a dead body is placed in a coffin and prior to a dead body being removed to the cemetery, or crematorium within the cemetery, a person who personally knew the deceased shall identify the dead body and shall complete a certificate of identification in the form determined by the Board from time to time, unless:

- (a) in the opinion of the Funeral Director, the dead body is not in a fit state to be viewed;
- or
- (b) after reasonable effort the Funeral Director is unable to arrange for a person to identify the dead body.

(2) Where:

- (a) in the opinion of the Funeral Director, the dead body is not in a fit state to be viewed;
- or
- (b) after reasonable effort the Funeral Director is unable to arrange for a person to identify the dead body,

then the Funeral Director shall complete a certificate in the form determined by the Board from time to time.

### **3.5 Minimum Notice Required**

All bookings to hold a funeral shall be made with the Board not less than 2 working days prior to the time proposed for burial on the application, otherwise an extra charge may be made.

## **PART 4 - FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

### **4.1 Funeral Director's Licence Expiry**

A funeral director's licence shall expire on 30 June in each year.

### **4.2 Single Funeral Permits**

Every application for a single funeral permit made under section 20 or 21 of the Act shall include coffin specifications and details of the vehicle transporting the dead body to the gravesite, or crematorium.

### **4.3 Application Refusal**

The Board may refuse an application for a single funeral permit if, in the opinion of the Board, either the coffin specifications or the details of the vehicle transporting the dead body to the gravesite or crematorium, are not structurally sound or are otherwise inadequate or inappropriate, or on any other grounds.

## **PART 5 - FUNERALS**

### **Division 1 - General**

#### **5.1 Requirements for Funerals and Coffins**

A person shall not bring a dead body into the cemetery unless:

- (a) the Board has approved an application for the burial of that dead body in accordance with Part 3 of this Local Law;
  - (b) it is enclosed in a coffin which in the opinion of the Board is structurally sound and bears the name of the deceased person indelibly inscribed in legible characters on a plate on the coffin's lid;
- and
- (c) under the plate referred to in paragraph (b) there is a substantive lead strip bearing the surname of the deceased person stamped in legible characters, each character being not less than 10 mm in height.

#### **5.2 Funeral Processions**

The time fixed by the Board for any burial shall be the time at which the funeral procession is to arrive at the cemetery gates, and, if not punctually observed, then the applicant who applied to hold the funeral under clause 3.1 shall pay the set fee for being late.

#### **5.3 Vehicle Access and Speed Limitations**

- (1) Subject to clause 5.3(2), every funeral procession shall enter by the principal entrance, and no vehicle except the hearse, and official mourning coaches, shall be permitted to enter the cemetery.
- (2) This clause shall not apply to vehicles or other motorized devices necessary to assist persons with limited mobility, or to any other vehicle approved by the CEO.
- (3) Vehicles shall proceed within the cemetery by the constructed roadway or other areas designated for the use of vehicles and shall not exceed the speed indicated by signs.

#### **5.4 Vehicle Access and Speed Limitations** *(Deleted 2017)*

#### **5.5 Offenders may be Expelled** *(Deleted 2017)*

#### **5.6 Conduct of Funeral by Board**

When conducting a funeral under section 22 of the Act the Board may:

- a) require a written request for it to conduct a funeral to be lodged with it;
- b) in its absolute discretion, charge any person requesting it to conduct a funeral the set fee for the conduct of that funeral by it;
- c) where no fee or a reduced fee has been charged by it for the conduct of the funeral, determine the manner in which the funeral shall be conducted;
- d) bury a dead body only when a permit to bury has been obtained for that body;
- e) specify an area in the cemetery where the dead body is to be buried or the ashes placed;
- f) conduct the funeral notwithstanding the failure of a person to make any application or to obtain any consent required under this Local Law;
- g) do or require anything which it considers is necessary or convenient for the conduct of a funeral by it.

### **Division 2 - Cremation** *(Deleted 2017)*

### **Division 3 - Placement of Ashes**

#### **5.12 Disposal of Ashes**

- (1) The personal representative of a deceased person whose body has been cremated may apply, in an application under clause 3.1 or otherwise, for permission to dispose of the ashes in the cemetery and upon payment of the set fee the Board may grant permission for the ashes to be disposed of by one of the following methods:
  - Niche Wall
  - Memorial Wall
  - Garden of Remembrance
  - Ground Niche
  - Memorial Rose, Tree or Shrub
  - Family Shrub
  - Memorial Desk
  - Granite Seat
  - Family Grave
  - Book of Remembrance
  - Scattering to the Winds
  - Memorial Gardens
  - Other memorials approved by the Board
- (2) Subject to sub-clauses (3) and (4), a person shall not place the ashes of a deceased person in the cemetery.
- (3) An authorised officer may place the ashes of a deceased person in a cemetery in accordance with the Board approval provided:
  - (a) the person requesting the placement of the ashes has the permission of the Board; and
  - (b) the ashes are placed within an area set aside for that purpose by the Board.

- (4) An authorised officer may place the ashes of a deceased person within a grave in accordance with the Board approval, provided the person requesting the placement of the ashes has the written permission of the Board and the approval of the holder of the right of burial of the grave.

### **5.13 Availability of Ashes** *(Deleted 2017)*

### **5.14 Ashes held by the Board** *(Deleted 2017)*

## **PART 6 - BURIALS**

### **6.1 Depth of Graves**

- (1) A person shall not bury a coffin within the cemetery so that the distance from the top of the coffin to the original surface of the ground is less than 750 mm.
- (2) A person, with the permission of the CEO or authorised officer, may bury a coffin so that the distance from the top of the coffin to the original surface of the ground is not less than 600 mm.
- (3) The permission of the authorised officer in subclause (2) will only be granted where in the opinion of the authorised officer exceptional circumstances require the granting of that permission.

### **6.2 Mausoleum, etc**

- (1) Subject to subclause (2), if for the purpose of re-opening a grave in the cemetery, the Board finds it necessary to remove plants, grass, shrubs or other like matter from the grave, then the person ordering the reopening of that grave shall bear the cost of the removal and any necessary reinstatement.
- (2) If the Minister orders the exhumation of a body in accordance with section 58 of the Act, then the Minister may further order how and by whom the cost referred to in subclause (1) should be met.
- (3) In this clause, the word **Minister** has the same meaning as is given to that expression in the Act.

### **6.3 Exhumation of a coffin**

- (1) Subject to subclause (2), a person shall not exhume a coffin in the cemetery for the purposes of re-burial within 12 months after the date of its internment.
- (2) Subclause (1) shall not apply where the exhumation is ordered or authorised pursuant to the Act.
- (3) Subject to subclause (1) and (2), prior to any exhumation, the holder of a grant must have applied in writing to the Board requesting the exhumation and the Board must have authorised the exhumation.

#### **6.4 Opening of coffin**

- (1) A person shall not open a coffin in the cemetery unless-
- (a) the coffin is opened for the purposes of the exhumation of a dead body; or
  - (b) that person has produced to the Board an order signed by the Commission of Police and the Board has approved the opening of that coffin.
- (2) In this clause **Commissioner of Police** means a Commissioner of Police for the time being appointed under the Police Act 1892 and includes a person for the time being acting in that capacity in the absence of the Commissioner of Police.

### **PART 7 - MEMORIALS AND OTHER WORK**

#### **Division 1 - General**

##### **7.1 Application for Monumental Work**

A Board may require the written consent of the holder of the right of burial of the grave to accompany an application under section 30 of the Act.

##### **7.2 Placement of Monumental Work**

Every memorial shall be placed on proper and substantial foundations.

##### **7.3 Removal of Rubbish**

All refuse, rubbish or surplus material remaining after memorial works are completed under a permit issued under section 30 of the Act shall be immediately removed from the cemetery by the person carrying out the same.

##### **7.4 Operation of Work**

All material required in the erection and completion of any work shall, as far as possible, be prepared before being taken to the cemetery, and all materials required by tradesmen shall be admitted at such entrance as the CEO or an authorised officer shall direct.

##### **7.5 Removal of Sand, Soil or Loam**

No sand, earth or other material shall be taken from any part of the cemetery for use in the erection of any memorial or work except with the written approval of the Board.

##### **7.6 Hours of Work**

Persons shall not be permitted to carry out memorial or other work on graves within the cemetery other than during the hours of 8.00am and 6.00pm on weekdays, and 8.00am and noon on Saturdays, without the written permission of the Board.

##### **7.7 Unfinished Work**

Should any work by masons or others be not completed before 6.00pm on weekdays and noon on Saturdays, they shall be required to leave the work in a neat and safe condition to the satisfaction of the CEO or an authorised officer.

**7.8 Use of Wood**

No wooden fence, railing, cross or other wooden erection shall be allowed on or around any grave, without the prior approval of the Board.

**7.9 Plants and Trees**

No trees or shrubs shall be planted on any grave or within the cemetery except such as shall be approved by the CEO.

**7.10 Supervision**

All workers, whether employed by the Board or by any other person, shall at all times whilst within the boundaries of the cemetery be subject to the supervision of the CEO or an authorised officer and shall obey such directions as the CEO or an authorised officer may give.

**7.11 Australian War Graves**

Notwithstanding anything in this Local Law to the contrary, the Office of Australian War Graves:

- (a) may place a memorial on a military grave; and
- (b) is not required to pay the set fee for any memorial that is placed upon a military grave.

**7.12 Placing of Glass Domes and Vases**

A person shall not place glass domes, vases or other grave ornaments:

- (a) outside the perimeter of a grave in the cemetery as defined in the plans kept and maintained under section 40 (2) of the Act; or
- (b) on the lawn in an area set aside by the Board as a lawn or a memorial plaque section.

**Division 2 - Lawn Section****7.13 Specification of Monuments**

- (1) All monuments in the lawn section of a cemetery shall:
  - (a) be made of natural stone; and
  - (b) be placed upon a base of natural stone; and
  - (c) comply with the following specifications:
    - (i) the overall height of the monument above the original surface of the grave shall not exceed 1.05m;
    - (ii) the height of the base of the monument above the original surface of the grave shall not be less than 150mm nor more than 450mm;
    - (iii) the width of the base of the monument shall not exceed 1.20m;
    - (iv) the depth of the base of the monument shall not exceed 300mm; and
  - (d) have foundations extending to the bottom of the grave unless concrete beam foundations are provided by the Board.

- (2) An admiralty bronze memorial plaque may be attached to a monument erected or being erected in the lawn section of the cemetery.
- (3) A person shall not display any trade names or marks upon any monument erected within the lawn section of the cemetery.

#### **7.14 Headstones**

In the lawn section of the cemetery, that part of a headstone above its base shall not extend horizontally beyond that base.

### **Division 3 - Memorial Plaque Section**

#### **7.15 Requirements of a Memorial Plaque**

- (1) All memorial plaques placed in a memorial plaque section of the cemetery shall:
  - (a) be made of admiralty bronze or any other material approved by the Board; and
  - (b) not be less than the dimensions 380mm x 280mm, nor more than 560mm x 305mm; and
- (2) All memorial plaques made of admiralty bronze shall:
  - (a) not exceed 20mm in thickness; and
  - (b) be placed upon a base mounting approved by the Board.
- (3) All memorial plaques made of stone shall:
  - (a) not exceed 50mm in thickness placed upon a base mounting approved by the Board; or
  - (b) not be less than 100mm in thickness if it is not to be placed upon a base mounting.

### **Division 4 - Licensing of Monumental Masons**

#### **7.16 Monumental Mason's Licence**

- (1) The Board may upon receipt of an application in writing by any person and upon payment of the set fee issue to the applicant a monumental mason's licence.
- (2) A licence issued under sub-clause (1) authorises the holder to carry out monumental works within the cemetery subject to the provisions of this Local Law and such conditions as the Board shall specify upon the issue of that licence.

#### **7.17 Expiry Date, Non-Transferability**

A monumental mason's licence:

- (a) shall, subject to clause 7.20, be valid from the date specified therein until the 30 June next following; and
- (b) is not transferable.

#### **7.18 Carrying out Monumental Work**

A person shall not carry out monumental work within the cemetery unless that person:

- (a) is the holder of a current monumental mason's licence issued pursuant to clause 7.16 or does so as the employee of a person who holds such a licence; or
- (b) is authorised by the Board to do so.

### **7.19 Responsibilities of the Holder of a Monumental Mason's Licence**

The holder of a monumental mason's licence shall be responsible for the compliance by every person purporting to be authorised to carry out monumental works within the cemetery pursuant to that licence with all the requirements and conditions of the licence, this Local Law, the Act and any other written law which may affect the carrying out of monumental works.

### **7.20 Cancellation of a Monumental Mason's Licence**

- (1) The Board may by notice in writing to the holder of a monumental mason's licence terminate the licence on any of the following grounds:
  - (a) that the holder of the licence has committed a breach of the requirements and conditions of the licence, this Local Law, the Act or any other written law which may affect the carrying out of monumental works;
  - (b) that, in the opinion of the Board, the conduct of the holder of the licence or any person in the employ of that holder in carrying out or attempting to carry out any works within the cemetery, is inappropriate or unbecoming; or
  - (c) that the holder of the licence has purported to transfer the licence issued to that holder.
- (2) Upon the termination of a monumental mason's licence under this clause no part of any fee paid for the issue of that licence is refundable by the Board.
- (3) An aggrieved person whose licence has been terminated under subclause (1) may appeal to a Local Court against a decision of the Board under this clause in the manner stated in section 19 (3) of the Act.

## **PART 8 - GENERAL**

### **8.1 Animals**

A person shall not bring an animal into or permit an animal to remain in a cemetery, other than an assistance animal, or with the approval of the CEO or an authorised person.

### **8.2 Guide Dogs** *(Deleted 2017)*

### **8.3 Damaging and Removing of Objects**

Subject to clause 8.4(3), a person shall not damage, remove or pick any tree, plant, shrub or flower in the cemetery or any other object or thing on any grave or memorial or which is the property of the Board without the permission of the Board.

### **8.4 Withered Flowers**

- (1) All flowers must be placed in vases or receptacles.

- (2) No person shall plant trees, shrubs or plants in the cemetery without the prior approval of the Board.
- (3) A person may remove withered flowers from a grave or memorial and these are to be placed in a receptacle provided by the Board for that purpose.

### **8.5 Littering and Vandalism**

A person shall not:

- (a) break or cause to be broken any glass, ceramic or other material in or upon the cemetery;
- (b) discard, deposit, leave or cause to be discarded, deposited or left any refuse or litter in or upon the cemetery other than in a receptacle provided for that purpose.

### **8.6 Advertising**

A person shall not carry on or advertise any trade, business or profession within the cemetery without the prior written approval of the Board which consent may be granted subject to such conditions as the Board thinks fit.

### **8.7 Obeying Signs and Directions**

A person shall obey all signs displayed, marked, placed or erected by the Board within the cemetery and any other lawful direction by the CEO or an authorised officer.

### **8.8 Removal from the Cemetery**

Any person failing to comply with any provisions of this Local Law or behaving in a manner that in the opinion of the Board, the CEO or an authorised officer is inappropriate in the cemetery may in addition to any penalty provided by this Local Law be ordered to leave the cemetery by the Board, the CEO or an authorised officer.

### **8.9 Fireworks or firearms**

- (1) A person shall not bring or discharge any fireworks within the cemetery.
- (2) A person shall not bring or discharge any firearms within the cemetery except members of the police service and in the case of a military funeral, when firearms may be brought into the cemetery and discharged by members of the Australian Defence Force.

## **PART 9 - OFFENCES AND MODIFIED PENALTIES**

### **9.1 General**

A person who commits a breach of any provisions of this Local Law commits an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$500.00 and if the offence is a continuing one to a further penalty not exceeding \$20.00 for every day or part of a day during which the offence has continued.

### **9.2 Modified Penalties**

- (1) Any offence against this local law may be dealt with under section 63 of the Act.

- (2) The modified penalty payable in respect of an offence against this local law is set at \$50.
- (3) The prescribed form of the infringement notice referred to in section 63(1) of the Act is the form as determined by the Board from time to time.
- (4) The prescribed form of the notice withdrawing an infringement notice referred to in section 63(3) of the Act is the form as determined by the Board from time to time.