



Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

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INTERIM BOARD TO LEAD NSW CEMETERY REFORMS

Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson today announced the appointment of an Interim Cemeteries and Crematoria Board to spearhead the most significant cemeteries reforms in over 100 years.

Ms Hodgkinson said the new board, chaired by Craig Sahlin, will ensure burial needs across NSW are met now and into the future, and that all faiths are represented.

“I am confident the interim board, which consists of top industry representatives including chairs of trusts, will take the lead on these necessary reforms,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“All trusts have now been appointed, with the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust appointed this week.”

“The interim board will play a key role in developing a new Cemeteries and Crematoria Act to govern all aspects of cemetery management on Crown, local government and private land.

“It will also assist the NSW Government to meet its commitment to establish accountable financial, governance and operational systems.

“The previous Labor Government failed to address the systemic management and governance problems.

“As a result, if no action is taken all of the eight Crown cemeteries are expected to reach full capacity by 2035,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

Interim board members will not receive any remuneration and will only remain in the position until the statutory board has been appointed.

Members are appointed for a maximum term of two years.

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*Interim Board Members are below.

The new interim board members are:

1. Craig Sahlin (Chair), DPI Executive Director leading the cemetery reform program
2. Robert Wilson, Chair of the Rookwood General Cemeteries Reserve Trust
3. Bruce Tanner, Chair of the Northern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust
4. Chair of the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, once appointed
5. Leo McLeay, Chair of the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust
6. Bronwyn Kelly, Waverly Council Director Corporate & Technical Services, representing local government cemetery managers
7. Andrew Smith, Managing Director and CEO of InvoCare Limited, representing private cemetery operators
8. Funeral industry nominee, to be appointed
9. Susan Budd, ex officio member from Department of Planning and Infrastructure
10. Sally Barnes, ex officio member from Office of Environment and Heritage
11. David Harley AM, expertise in cemetery reform strategy
12. David Knoll AM, expertise in legislation and governance