



# AUSIA FUNERAL SERVICES PTY LTD

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3 April 2019

Independent Planning Commission NSW  
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth St  
Sydney NSW 2001

Re: Crown Cemetery Development Varroville (MacArthur Memorial Park)

Sir/Madam,

My name is Phillip Vinh Lam, Funeral Director of Ausia Funeral Services located at Fairfield West, a family business operating since 2008 to cater to Asian funerals. I had 10 years experience in the cemetery industry before putting up my own funeral services, meeting the needs of my communities. I am also a resident of Fairfield for more than 25 years. I am also vice-president of the Australian Chinese Chin Lin Association, at Canley Vale.

I would like to express my support on the Crown Cemetery Development Varroville.

As a funeral director and community leader I find my communities be affected by the growing shortage of burial space and its rising prices. We have 2 cemeteries, the Liverpool Cemetery which I believe is running out of burial spaces and because of the shortage, is selling burial plot at a higher price. The second one is the private cemetery at Leppington, Forest Lawn Memorial Park, which being a profitable company is selling monumental memorials at high prices and keeps increasing every year. Many times I have to take funerals farther away seeking for cheaper burial land as families cannot afford high prices in our locality.

Because of the high prices due to shortages of burial land, the government must find a solution for the benefit of our community for a cemetery with scale and scope to provide burial spaces for the next 100 years.

I am therefore supporting the proposed development of MacArthur Memorial Park at Varroville. Crown cemeteries are a not for profit organisation and I believe that it will offer lower prices than the private cemetery at Leppington.

The proposed location of MacArthur Memorial Park in Varroville is easily accessible from the Fairfield area where there is a major concentration of the Chinese and Indo-Chinese communities. Rather than for families to travel farther away to find an affordable cemetery land.

In my experience, my communities prefer monumental memorials that requires burial land. We also observe cultural practices such as ching ming in the cemetery, where we visit and honour our ancestors. I have seen the plan for a Buddhist section at MacArthur Memorial Park and my community welcomes this proposal as it will provide an area where families and kept together in one final resting place that is sacred.

I have also seen the proposal for 36 hectares of parkland, with open spaces and areas for families to enjoy nature and the scenic hills. I understand that the plan will preserve the heritage and the environment of the scenic hills at Varroville, and we cannot be wrong in saying, that in deed, the parkland will benefit the whole community.

I have read the opposition of the owners of the Varroville Cottage and I must say that the only way we can preserve the heritage of Varroville and its environment is through a cemetery.

If you do not allow a cemetery to be developed, seeing the growth of the housing subdivisions in that area due to increasing population growth and need for housing, in 20 to 30 years, the beautiful scenic hills will be overtaken by housing.

And if this happens, it will increase the noise and traffic through its only accessible road, the St Andrews Road.

It is now the responsibility of the state government under its NSW Cemeteries and Crematoria law to develop and provide new cemetery land for the people of Sydney and Campbelltown.

I pray to the Independent Planning Commission tasked to review the Development Proposal to consider the growing needs of the community long term and consider the proposal favourably.

Sincerely yours,



Ausia Funeral Services