4 April 2018

Sydney Western City Planning Panel Penrith City Council 601 High Street Penrith NSW 2750

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Wallacia Memorial Park

We write in support of the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust's proposal to establish Wallacia Memorial Park to provide much-needed multi-denominational cemetery space.

The provision of adequate burial grounds is an issue of pressing concern for our community, particularly as, on current trends, the available burial grounds will not meet our needs beyond 2025 – just seven years away.

Our community believes that the need for approval of the proposal put forward by the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust is vital. The planning and provision for critical burial grounds is within a pressing time-frame, considering the lengthy lead time for approval and the establishment of essential infrastructure. This is further compounded by land acquisition costs increasing rapidly. Further, our community always endeavours to work with the wider community and to co-operate harmoniously with a wide range of faith communities in order to ensure that cemeteries respect and make provision for the needs of diverse religious and cultural groups.

In recent times, government priority has understandably been given to other essential community infrastructure items such as housing, open-space recreation and public facilities such as schools and hospitals. It is now critical that cemetery land allocation and development be given higher priority so as to give assurance to our members and constituents that this vital issue is being meaningfully addressed.

We believe that the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust's proposal for the Wallacia Memorial Park development will not only provide much needed burial space but will also enhance the current facilities while protecting the rural views and aspect of the Wallacia area for generations to come. We therefore respectfully request that the proposal receive your favourable consideration.

Yours sincerely

