



2nd April, 2019

To the members of the Independent Planning Commission,

I write in strong support of the proposed Wallacia Memorial Park (A084-18 Crown Cemetery Development, Wallacia) by Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria.

Blessed Funerals are a family owned & operated funeral home serving all Sydney areas. We have worked with Catholic Cemeteries for several years across all their locations including Rookwood, Liverpool and Kemps Creek. At Kemps Creek, the Chaldean and Croatian communities have specific lawns dedicated to their communities.

We look after hundreds of families each year from a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds including several different communities at Kemps Creek, such as the Chaldean, Croatian and Maltese communities whose religious beliefs and cultural practices continue to prefer burial over cremation. When Kemps Creek Cemetery is full in 10 years' time, these communities will have no burial space and will need to transition to a new memorial park. Wallacia is the answer for these communities based in western Sydney.


The only other option for these families is Pinegrove Memorial Park, that is located in Minchinbury and owned by the ASX listed company Invocare. Invocare with their other cemetery located at Forest Lawn, effectively have a monopoly in western Sydney with no Crown cemeteries available to the community. The burial prices set by Invocare are not regulated and families struggle to be able to afford them.

There is a shortage of affordable burial space across western Sydney and the government should ensure that that the practices and beliefs of all in the community are respected and provided for. The proposed cemetery at Wallacia can provide this for the next 100 years, as well as green space for the local community to enjoy. With the new airport at Badgerys Creek being developed it is imperative that we maintain green space as a buffer to the houses and industrial complexes that will be developed across this region.

At Kemps Creek Catholic Cemeteries & Crematoria are part of the community putting on events such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, All Souls Day and the only Carols event in the local area. The first Carols by Candlelight event drew over 500 attendees. They also hold a monthly mass and bereavement support for all in the community, regardless of religious background. In collaboration with our company, they also offer financial support to new communities such as the Chaldeans who were forced to leave their homeland with nothing, to start again in Australia.

We fully support a Crown cemetery at Wallacia, operated as a not for profit and offering choice and downward pressure on prices for those families and community groups in the Penrith region, who will continue to bury their loved ones in the future.

Yours faithfully,


Director
BLESSED FUNERALS