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To: [IPCEN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Wallacia Memorial Park (A084-18 Crown Cemetery Development, Wallacia)
Date: Saturday, 30 March 2019 4:02:01 PM

To the members of the Independent Planning Commission,

I write to you today, in strong support of the Wallacia Memorial Park (A084-18 Crown Cemetery Development, Wallacia)

We are a local, family owned and operated Funeral business located in Penrith NSW, which is the city located closest to this proposed development. As such, we have a great knowledge of the local area, as well as the needs of our industry and the services that we provide, and especially in relation to the growing population out in this region, and what is currently on offer to our local families in terms of burial options.

It is a well known fact that the Sydney Basin as a whole is running short of burial space, and it will get a lot worse in the coming years. If you look at Far Western Sydney specifically, the options that people currently have to bury their loved ones, if they choose to do so, are very limited. In the Penrith region, where we operate, our families currently only really have two choices if they want a loved one to be buried close to home. These are:

1. Penrith Valley Cemeteries (operated by Penrith Council)
2. Pinegrove Memorial Park (operated by Invocare)

Penrith Council operates and maintains several cemeteries. The three active ones are Penrith General Cemetery, Kingswood, St Marys General Cemetery, and Emu Plains Cemetery. Of these three cemeteries, only Penrith General Cemetery has available space for people to purchase burial sites now. Both St Marys and Emu Plains are now completely full, and the only burials that are taking place at these two locations, are those families who have pre-purchased their sites in years gone past. Even at Penrith General, families can no longer select a specific grave location, the sites are now allocated by section as a "next available" basis. Penrith Council has NO plans to develop any further council operated cemeteries for future needs, so effectively, once this last remaining location is full, the local community will have nothing left.

Pinegrove Memorial Park is located at Eastern Creek, which is not really local to our region, however it is the NEXT CLOSEST for the people of the Nepean Region. However, it is owned and operated by Funeral Industry giant and ASX listed company Invocare, and the very expensive prices reflect this extremely well. On a point of interest, Invocare also owns and operates Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Leppington, which is south east of our region, and Castlebrook Memorial Park, Rouse Hill which is to the north east of our region. Effectively, our residents are "boxed in" by Invocare in terms of cemetery options, other than the one remaining council cemetery, so on most occasions, they have no choice but to pay the high prices that are being charged by Invocare, if burial is a choice for their family.

Burial prices are high due to lack of choice and competition, so that must be another consideration when making a decision about this development.

In summary, we strongly support the development for Wallacia Memorial Park for the following reasons:

- *The Sydney Basin, and especially Western Sydney, is desperately short of burial space and it will get worse in the coming years.
- *The people of Western Sydney need more choice when it comes to burial locations, as currently one large company basically has a monopoly in the region, which is creating extremely high prices.
- *Penrith Council currently has no plans to develop any further cemetery locations within the

region.

If you require any further information, please contact me on [REDACTED] or via this email.

Kind Regards,

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