



PENRITH VALLEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Foundation Members
Lamrocks Solicitors & Attorneys
Freeburn Surveyors

Monday, 1 April 2019

To the members of the Independent Planning Commission,

As we were unable to attend the Public Meeting on 27 March 2019, please accept our letter in support of the proposed Wallacia Memorial Park (A084-18 Crown Cemetery Development, Wallacia) by Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (CMCT).

CMCT have conducted comprehensive studies by a range of industry specialists that have demonstrated the suitability of the site to support the Wallacia Memorial Park (WMP) development, along with publicly accessible parkland. Delays to approving a new cemetery would effectively price out less well-off families to cemeteries close to their homes, forcing them inter and visit their loved ones at cemeteries outside of metropolitan Sydney.

With the rapidly growing population of the Western Sydney projected to reach 3 million by 2036, our region desperately needs infrastructure to support this massive population growth and cemeteries are often overlooked as part of this infrastructure.

The cemetery and the auxiliary services associated with providing funeral services and visitation to the cemetery will provide local job opportunities during construction and once it is operational for businesses such as function centres, caterers, florists, gift shops, photographers, videographers, printers and counselling services to name a few.

We have been advised that if this development is not approved the golf club will close which would be a terrible loss to the community of Wallacia and also the regular golf members. With the influx of development that will occur with the new Nancy-Bird Walton airport at Badgerys Creek, and its 24 hour curfew free operation, it is important to maintain green space for those that live in the community.

WMP will provide modern and affordable cemetery services, a new function centre and give everyone in the community access to green open space that has not been previously available to the public. Garden style cemeteries since the 1800's have served dual roles as sacred sites and a meditative natural environment to escape from urban crowding.

We reiterate our support for the proposed development at Wallacia and hope that the growing infrastructure needs of the growing Western Sydney community can be placed first.

Regards

Simon Gould.
President - Penrith Valley Chamber of Commerce

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