

The cemeteries in New South Wales are subject to State legislation: the Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2013 and Cemeteries and Crematoria Regulation 2022 and regulated by Cemeteries & Crematoria NSW (CCNSW).

Cemetery and crematoria operators are also regulated under the Public Health Regulation 2022, administered by NSW Health.

In addition, each council is enabled under the Local Government Act 1993 to make a by-law with respect to cemeteries. A cemeteries by-law enables a council to regulate and control the management of cemeteries on land owned by, or under the control of, the council.

What service does Dubbo Regional Council provide?

The Community, Culture and Places Executive Support Team works with families and Funeral Homes to purchase new plots, or to use an existing plot and issue required permits. Council also approves headstones/monuments/plaques for consistency and safety purposes.

Council's Greenspace Maintenance Team dig the grave prior to the funeral service and also provide regular maintenance to all the cemeteries managed by Dubbo Regional Council.

How do I pre-purchase a cemetery plot?

Cemetery plots may be purchased in advance and reserved by contacting the Community, Culture and Places Executive Support Team on (02) 6801 4000.

Can all cemetery services be pre-purchased?

No, Council only accepts pre-purchase of a plot or ashes site. Plaques, interment fees etc. are payable at the time of need.

Who makes an interment booking?

All funerals must be arranged through a Funeral Director who will contact the Executive Support Team to make the necessary arrangements and book the interment.

What is an Exclusive Right of Interment?

Dubbo Regional Council owns the land and a "holder" is issued an Exclusive Right of Interment. The Right of Interment is the "Exclusive" right to have themselves or any other person they nominate buried in that grave. Furthermore, the holder who has the Exclusive Right of Interment is the only person who can authorise the placement of a memorial on that grave.

Does the holder own the land where the plot is?

An Exclusive Right of Interment is not a Title Deed to that land as many would believe. The Holder's entitlements are limited to access to the burial site and right to arrange memorials.

What is a perpetual interment right?

A perpetual interment right allows the rights holder to bury human remains in a particular plot in a cemetery and for those remains to be left undisturbed forever (in perpetuity).

How many interments can take place in one plot?

Each gravesite can take up to two interments and four ashes placements.

Can interments take place on weekends or public holidays?

Yes, subject to availability of staff. Additional charges apply – refer to Council's fees and charges.

How do I organise a headstone or monument?

Families need to contact a certified Monumental Mason who will organise the application to Council on behalf of the family for any headstone or monument and comply with Council regulations.

Who is responsible for maintenance and repair of gravesites?

Dubbo Regional Council maintains the cemeteries' grounds, infrastructure and facilities. Individual monuments are maintained by the holder of the exclusive right of interment. Usually that is the family of the deceased.

How do I change ownership of a plot or interment right?

An application can be made to Council to transfer ownership of an interment right. A transfer fee applies.

What happens if the dirt on the grave has subsided?

Council will regularly check all new graves for subsidence especially after rain and organise for dirt to be placed on the gravesite if needed.

Where can I get a white cross for the gravesite?

White crosses are organised with the funeral director at time of burial.

What are my payment options?

Payments need to be made in full, by either cash, cheque or EFTPOS at council offices in Dubbo or Wellington.

What can I place at the gravesite?

Council has a detailed document regarding the placement of tributes or adornments on graves which is designed to ensure the general public can visit the cemeteries and enjoy a safe, tidy and well-maintained environment for peaceful reflection. The General Public Conduct Terms and Conditions is available, bit.ly/3YnYQ2A

Fresh flowers are permitted but no artificial turf. Anything left on the lawn will be removed to allow us to carry out maintenance. Any item which can be broken may cause injury to our staff and other visitors. Items such as glass/ceramic vases, rocks or solar lights are not allowed as they may get caught in lawnmowers, causing injury. Mementos and items placed on new graves will be removed after six months from the date of interment.

Can I plant my own plants in other areas in the cemetery?

Planting of shrubs, trees or creating a small garden area is not permitted anywhere within the cemetery without the Council's approval.

If planted they will be immediately removed from the lawn or beam sections within the Cemeteries.

Why does Dubbo Regional Council have policies and procedures for Cemeteries?

Cemetery policies and procedures aim to provide safe, consistent and socially acceptable standards and practices that benefit members of the general public, Funeral Directors and Council workers as well as improve the aesthetics of the cemeteries.

The implementation of these policies and procedures allow Council to conduct the required maintenance and they also ensure the conduct of those entering the cemeteries is in accordance with reasonable and practical standards.

I want to visit a family member or friend at a cemetery how can I find them?

A Genealogy Request is a search of Council burial and church records.

Dubbo Regional Council maintains Cemetery records and has maps of the cemeteries. The Information contained within these registers may be useful if you are researching your family history. Please contact Council to view the maps or registers. The search can be extensive and Council cannot provide a turnaround time for your request.

Note: there may be a fee attached to this service and not all information may be released due to privacy reasons.

Some useful links for genealogy enquiries are listed below

Australian Cemeteries Index - <https://austcemindex.com/>

The purpose of this Australian Family History dedicated site is to provide a searchable data base for all cemetery inscriptions that have been recorded by the authors over several years. It is intended to be a useful tool for those researching their family history. The index contains details of headstones from a number of cemeteries in Australia. It initially concentrated on cemeteries in regional NSW, but is now expanding into other areas as required. This is not a record of burials, but a record of inscriptions on headstones or plaques found in each cemetery.

NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages - <https://www.nsw.gov.au/births-deaths-marriages>

This government department registers New South Wales life events accurately and securely for all time, ensuring their integrity and confidentiality. This includes the registration of births, deaths and marriages and official changes of name and sex.

For more information please contact the Community Culture and Places Executive Support Team or **scan the QR code**



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