

Kōrero mai | Let's talk

Cemeteries Handbook update submissions

Jul 29, 2025 - Aug 11, 2025

Response No:
1

Contribution ID: 38555

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text Hope Funerals Christchurch

Q4 Full name

Short Text Peter John Hunter

Q8 Do you have any comments on our proposed changes to the Cemeteries Handbook?

Long Text The Cemeteries Handbook is a useful document. In particular when training new staff. This is a resource that has value.

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text Christchurch Water Crematorium

Q4 Full name

Short Text Deborah Richards

Q8 Do you have any comments on our proposed changes to the Cemeteries Handbook?

Long Text I support the CCC Cemeteries Handbook enabling water cremated remains to be interred in our cemeteries. Families are choosing water cremation for their loved ones, now. We have conducted 24 water cremations to date and people are wanting this option for its environmental benefits. They also want to have the option of having water cremated remains interred with other family members in our cemeteries, in existing plots. I believe obstructing or preventing this choice for people would be wrong and distressing for families. I have spoken about this issue to Bishop Peter Carroll and he advised me that he gives his absolute support for water cremated remains to be interred in our cemeteries. Please include and recognize water cremation in the Cemeteries Handbook for its environmental benefits and to give people choice. We have worked with CCC to obtain our necessary consents and permits to operate. It makes sense that as a permitted process in our city, which is more environmentally sustainable and has had rigorous scrutiny, and is an action we can take to address climate change, that we should be able to inter water cremated remains just as with flame cremation.
Ngā mihi nui,
Debbie Richards

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text

Q4 Full name

Short Text

Stephanie Lee Ransfield

Q8 Do you have any comments on our proposed changes to the Cemeteries Handbook?

Long Text

I think the proposed changes to the Cemeteries Handbook are not only pertinent given the influx in cremation alternatives, but also exceedingly necessary given the ever evolving nature of the death industry and death related practices. I am therefore in full support of broadening our terms to include usage of these newer more modern methods of cremation.

The proposed changes to the Cemeteries Handbook would not only provide the public with more options moving forward, but ultimately would cater to a much wider audience.

Broadening terms to include a variety of different types of human remains is especially relevant as people explore these newer more modern (and often times more environmentally friendly) alternatives to traditional cremation. As these cremation alternatives increase in popularity, the market will (hopefully) become more competitive. As a result, we will likely see the cost of these services decrease over the coming decades, making alternatives to traditional cremation more viable than ever before. It would be wise to change our definitions and update our terms before this influx occurs to avoid unnecessary drama.

If these changes aren't made soon, I get the sense they will be made later, but potentially under more strain/stress.

Response No:
4

Contribution ID: 38241

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text

Q4 Full name

Short Text

Cheryl Cowden

Q8 Do you have any comments on our proposed changes to the Cemeteries Handbook?

Long Text

I do not think anything should be changed until the Burial and cremation Act 1964 is changed to see what is put in that.

Response No:
5

Contribution ID: 38743

Q2 Name of organisation/business

Short Text

Q4 Full name

Short Text

CHRISTOPHER JOHN BOND

Q8 Do you have any comments on our proposed changes to the Cemeteries Handbook?

Long Text

I've recently updated the provisions of my will to replace flame cremation with water cremation, but the following provision remains unaltered: that my remains are to be interred in my mother's grave at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] As my brother's [REDACTED] same cremation ashes are already interred in my mother's plot, I'd like to be assured that CCC's changes won't cause my executors any problems??
Chris Bond.