



# The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

## Minister for Primary Industries

### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### **ROOKWOOD NECROPOLIS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson today said the investment of up to \$12 million in capital works at the historic Rookwood Necropolis proves the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government's cemetery reforms are already showing good results.

Ms Hodgkinson said the *Cemeteries & Crematoria Act 2013* commenced this month.

"Rookwood's governance has been streamlined from seven religious-based trusts to a two-trust structure as part of the NSW Government's cemetery reforms," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"Rookwood, near the Sydney suburb of Lidcombe, is the largest cemetery in the southern hemisphere and is forging a sustainable future under a new Plan of Management adopted this year.

"The capital works program will provide much-needed new roads and infrastructure at Rookwood, which was established in 1860.

"The works include seven new bus shelters, already built, and reconstruction of the primary roads Necropolis Circuit and Necropolis Drive.

"The Weeroona Road entrance is being upgraded and a new entrance created from Sheedy Avenue to alleviate traffic congestion."

The Minister said the Plan of Management establishes a framework to achieve the aims for the future of Rookwood, and a clear vision of what it will be 30 years from now.

"This Plan of Management is consistent with the vision of the cemetery reforms which are all about sustainability and planning ahead for the burial needs of future generations," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"Works under development at Rookwood include landscaping, heritage conservation and upgrades to buildings, fencing and signage.

"The plan provides for the continued sustainable use of Rookwood for burials and cremations, ensuring that the environmental and heritage values of the site are maintained."

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello said he welcomed the investment which would support the future provision of culturally-appropriate burial facilities.

"In keeping with the *Cemeteries & Crematoria Act 2013*, it supports and respects the religious and cultural beliefs of all the communities who farewell their loved ones at Rookwood."