

CEMETERY MASTERPLANS

WHITSUNDAY REGIONAL COUNCIL | JANUARY 2026





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

Whitsunday Regional Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land and pay our respect to their Elder's past and present and acknowledge their ongoing relationship and connection to Country.

Whitsunday Regional Council endorses the vision of a nation which values Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, cultures and peoples and recognises their distinct position as the original custodians of Australia including the Ngaro, Gia, Juru, Jangga and Birriah traditional owner groups within the Whitsundays.

Council's Mission is to make a sustainable future possible by building stronger relationships, mutual respect and encouraging cultural practices that strengthen and support harmony between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader community within the Whitsunday Region.

OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Whitsunday Regional Council Cemeteries Masterplan has been prepared using the skills, experience and inspiration of many people, including, but not limited to:

Whitsunday Regional Council

Key stakeholders including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, local community groups, funeral directors and contractors

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01 INTRODUCTION

01-1 Purpose

Background

Cemeteries play a vital role in communities as places of remembrance, heritage, and reflection. As the Whitsunday region continues to grow and diversify, it is important to ensure its cemeteries remain inclusive, functional, and capable of meeting future interment needs.

Whitsunday Regional Council is responsible for managing eight cemeteries across the region, three of which are currently operational:

- Bowen Cemetery
- Collinsville Cemetery
- Proserpine Cemetery

These cemeteries serve distinct urban and rural communities, each with varying levels of capacity, infrastructure, and demand.

Bowen Cemetery, located within the township of Bowen, accommodates an average of 43 interments annually. The site comprises 6.819 hectares of land, of which 53% is currently in use. Short- to medium-term infrastructure upgrades are required to unlock approximately 3.169 hectares of immediately available land to meet the community's long-term needs.

Collinsville Cemetery serves a smaller rural population and currently averages 9 interments per year. It comprises 4.337 hectares, with 31% currently in use. Only minor infrastructure upgrades are needed to unlock an additional 1.12 hectares of undeveloped land that is readily accessible. A further 1.87 hectares is available for future expansion, positioning the cemetery well to accommodate long-term needs and emerging interment preferences.

Proserpine Cemetery, located within walking distance of the Proserpine town centre is an urban cemetery. It accommodates an average of 36 interments annually and comprises 8.597 hectares of land, 47% of which is currently in use. Similar to Bowen, infrastructure upgrades are required in the short to medium term to unlock approximately 2.549 hectares of immediately available land. An additional 1.962 hectares is available for longer-term expansion meaning Proserpine Cemetery is also well

placed to meet future interment demand and emerging interment preferences.

Collectively, the three operational cemeteries have sufficient capacity to meet both the immediate and long-term needs of their respective communities. Ongoing planning, site investigations, and responsive design will be critical to addressing land suitability challenges, ensuring the efficient use of available land, and delivering the amenity and environmental outcomes anticipated by the Whitsunday community.

Masterplan Introduction

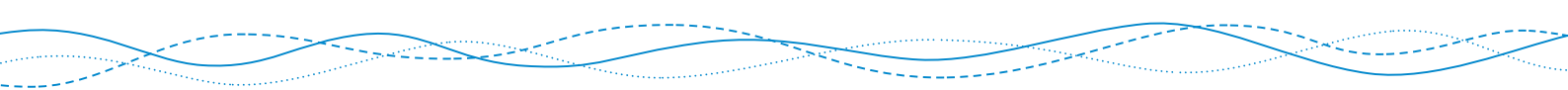
Recognising the importance of proactive and coordinated planning, Whitsunday Regional Council has developed this high level Masterplan to guide future improvements across its three operational cemeteries. It has been developed in alignment with the Whitsunday Regional Council Cemeteries Strategy and compliments broader Council planning documents, including the Open Space Strategy 2022, Parks and Open Spaces Technical Levels of Service, and the Local Government Infrastructure Plan.

Vision

By taking a long-term, high-level approach, the Cemetery Masterplans aim to follow the vision of the Whitsunday Regional Council Cemeteries Strategy:

A region in which all cemeteries are systematically developed and maintained to establish a pleasant, safe, peaceful, and sustainable environment, while ensuring that all burials are managed with compassion, competence, and efficiency.

This vision will be realised through the design of adaptable spaces that support future interments and evolving practices. Cemeteries will offer a variety of memorial options reflecting cultural, spiritual, and personal preferences, alongside gathering spaces and areas for quiet reflection. Enhancements to way finding, signage, access, and connectivity will improve the visitor experience. A consistent design approach, climate resilience, and sustainable practices will underpin all improvements, with the needs of individuals, families, the wider community, and service providers placed at the centre of all planning and design decisions.



01-2 Alignment with the Cemeteries Strategy and Broader Strategies

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate how the Masterplans align with broader Council planning documents and how they directly respond to the strategic direction set by the Cemeteries Strategy.

Figure 1. Relationship between the Masterplans and Planning Documents

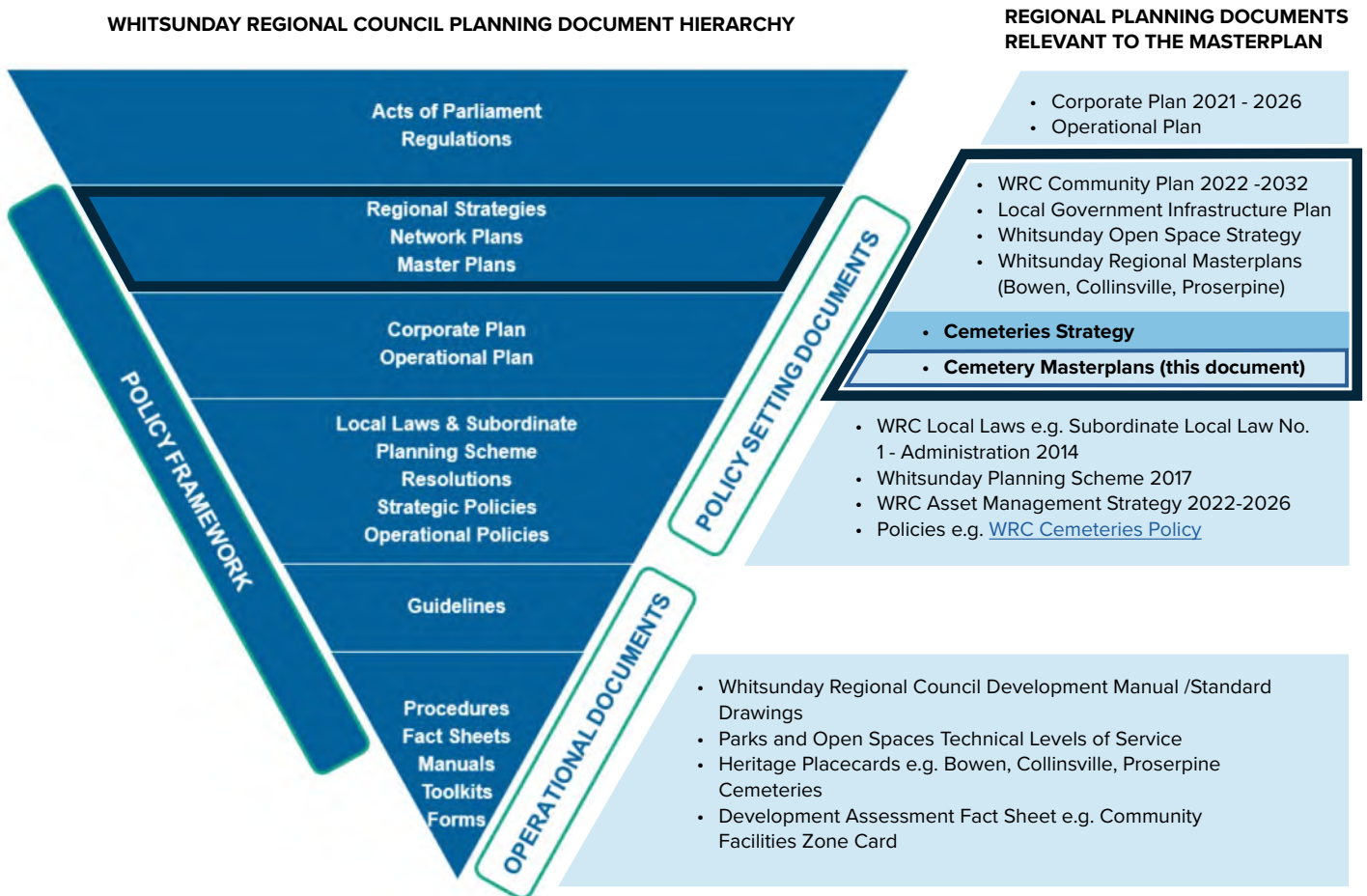
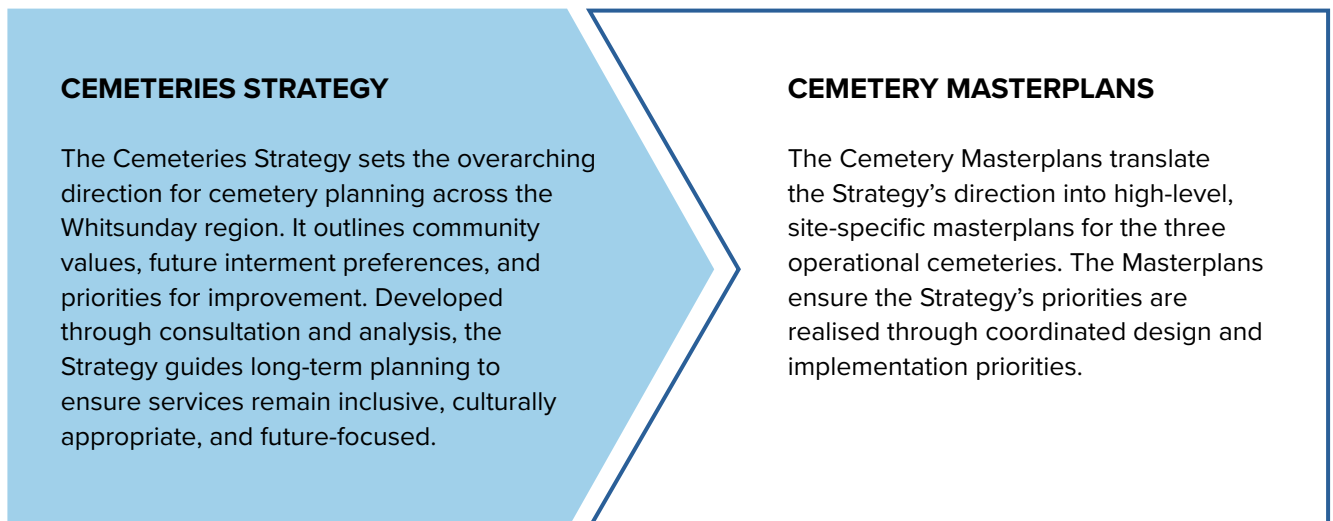


Figure 2. Relationship between the Cemeteries Strategy and the Masterplan



02 CEMETERIES NETWORK

02-1 Cemeteries Network Map

As shown in the Cemeteries Network Map (Figure 3), eight cemeteries are distributed across the Whitsunday region, spanning coastal, rural, and inland areas. Collectively, these cemeteries serve a geographically and culturally diverse population.

The Masterplans focus solely on the three operational cemeteries:

- Bowen Cemetery, located in the coastal

town of Bowen, in the northern part of the region.

- Collinsville Cemetery, situated centrally and serving the inland mining community of Collinsville.
- Proserpine Cemetery, located in the north-eastern part of the region, and situated within walking distance of Proserpine township, is also in proximity to Airlie Beach–Cannonvale area.

Figure 3. Cemeteries Network Map



02-2 Cemetery Network Overview Table

Figure 4. Supply Analysis

	TOTAL LAND AREA (ha) ¹	SUPPLY ANALYSIS - LAND AREA (ha)			AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER OF INTERMENTS (2019 - 2023) ²			SUPPLY ANALYSIS - INTERMENT PLOTS (MASTERPLAN INTERMENT PLOTS AVAILABLE) ^{3/4}			
		AREA IN USE (ha)	AREA SUITABLE FOR IMMEDIATE USE (ha)	AREA SUITABLE FOR FUTURE USE (ha) (Further land investigation required)	AVERAGE TOTAL	AVERAGE BODY	AVERAGE ASH	TOTAL CAPACITY	BODY CAPACITY	ASH CAPACITY	FUTURE USE (FURTHER LAND INVESTIGATION REQUIRED) ^{6/7}
BOWEN CEMETERY	6.819	3.650	3.169	N/A	43	35 81%	8 19%	5,358	2,362 44%	2,996 56%	N/A
COLLINSVILLE CEMETERY	4.337	1.347	1.120	1.870	9	8 89%	1 11%	3,204	830 49%	847 51%	1,470 Body plots only
PROSERPINE CEMETERY	8.597	4.086	2.549	1.962	36	30 83%	6 17%	7,322	1,569 30%	3,794 70%	1,542 Body plots only

Figure 5. Demand Analysis

	DEMAND ANALYSIS - FIRST INTERMENT PLOTS REQUIRED IN NEXT 10 YEARS 2025 - 2034 ⁸			WHEN CEMETERY IS EXPECTED TO REACH CAPACITY ⁹
	TOTAL REQUIRED	BODY INTERMENT REQUIRED	ASH INTERMENT REQUIRED	
BOWEN CEMETERY	470	383 81%	87 19%	Beyond 2074 ¹⁰
COLLINSVILLE CEMETERY	90	80 89%	10 11%	Beyond 2074 ¹⁰
PROSERPINE CEMETERY	388	328 84%	60 16%	Beyond 2074 ¹⁰

OVERVIEW TABLE KEY ASSUMPTIONS:

1. Total land area calculations provided by SmartMap Information Services - Whitsunday Regional Council.
2. Average annual number of interments (2019 - 2023) provided by Whitsunday Regional Council.
3. Current (early 2025) interment capacities within land already in use at each cemetery are included in the total capacity figures.
4. Only first interments are considered when calculating supply and capacity numbers. First interments refer to the initial ash or body interment within a plot.
5. Capacity calculations under 'Supply Analysis - Interment Plots (Immediate Use)' are based on the comprehensive layout of undeveloped land (suitable for immediate use), as illustrated by each Masterplan.
6. Capacity calculations under 'Supply Analysis - Interment Plots (Future Use)' are based on estimated 45% land usage for interments (allowing for infrastructure and environmental requirements), and relates only to body lawn and monumental body burials, where an average of 5.725m² of land is required per burial.
7. The estimated 45% land usage rate is based on estimated infrastructure and environmental constraints within each cemetery (i.e. stormwater and existing areas of native vegetation), as well as amenity, shade and emerging interments types (i.e. natural burials). As such, an average yield of 786 body interments/ha is anticipated.
8. Calculations for 'Demand Analysis - First Interment Plots Required in next 10 years 2025 - 2034' are based on current interment trends and population projections from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO) 2021 Census by SA2 area - medium projections.
9. Based on interment plots available within proposed masterplans as well as population projections.
10. Based on the interment types outlined in this document, Bowen is expected to reach capacity by 2097, Proserpine by 2117, and Collinsville beyond 2200.

02-3 Challenges and Opportunities

This section outlines key challenges and opportunities relevant to the future planning, design, and management of the Whitsunday Regional Council's cemetery network, with a focus on Bowen, Collinsville and Proserpine cemeteries.

Demographics, Culture and Population Growth

Whitsunday Regional Council covers a large and diverse geographic area, with communities spread across coastal, hinterland and rural settings. According to the 2021 Census, the region had a population of approximately 37,642 people, with steady population growth projected over the next two decades, particularly in coastal areas such as Airlie Beach and Cannonvale.

Approximately 10% of the population identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and there is a strong sense of cultural identity across both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

The region's ageing demographic may result in increased interment demand, particularly in urban centres like Bowen and Proserpine.

Cultural preferences—especially those of local First Nations groups, religious communities, and migrant populations—will shape burial choices and influence design responses. There is an opportunity to deliver more inclusive, culturally sensitive spaces that better reflect Whitsunday's demographic diversity.

Interment Options and Unmarked Burials

Current interment options across the network include:

Body Interment:

- Lawn Body Burial
- Monumental Body Burial

Lawn Ash Interment:

- Memorial Garden (Ash)
- Columbarium Wall (Ash)
- Lawn Ash (in existing lawn burial plot)

Ash interments are slowly increasing in popularity, in line with national trends, but traditional burials remain the dominant interment type in the region.

There are limited formal records relating to historical and unmarked burials, particularly in older sections of Bowen and Collinsville cemeteries.

Opportunities exist to research, map and acknowledge these burial areas, with potential for interpretive signage or memorialisation. Additionally, there is growing interest in natural burial practices, and future planning should explore space allocation and regulatory considerations for green burial areas.

Access and Circulation

Access and internal circulation modes vary across the network. Bowen Cemetery has sealed, but narrow internal roads and limited formal pedestrian infrastructure, while Collinsville Cemetery has broad gravel accessways and limited signage. Proserpine Cemetery is accessed via a busy main road, and comprises a network of internal gravel loop roads.

Challenges include improving wayfinding, ensuring safe and accessible parking, and providing all-weather access to grave sites for both vehicles and pedestrians. Future design work should focus on improving circulation routes, enhancing accessibility for people with limited mobility, and providing better directional signage.

Visitor Infrastructure and Amenities

Visitor amenities are limited across all three cemeteries. Most sites lack sufficient shade trees, seating, shelters and drinking water, but all have toilet facilities. This limits the comfort and usability of the sites, particularly for elderly visitors or those attending long services.

There is an opportunity to enhance the visitor experience through targeted improvements, including shaded seating areas, water access, shelter structures, and modest landscape



upgrades to support comfort, reflection, and gathering.

Climate Change and Environment

The Whitsunday region is subject to a range of climate-related risks, including high rainfall, flooding, extreme heat and cyclones. Some cemetery sites - particularly those in coastal or low-lying areas - are vulnerable to flooding and water logging, which may constrain future burial capacity or necessitate specific ground preparation.

The region's tropical climate, marked by seasonal heavy rainfall and high humidity, presents additional land suitability challenges at both Bowen and Proserpine cemeteries. Issues such as high rock tables, elevated groundwater levels, and flood-prone terrain further limit the availability of land for future interments.

There is increasing demand for sustainable design approaches, including water-sensitive landscaping, low-emission materials, and minimising the use of concrete.

Opportunities exist to incorporate planting schemes that provide shade, habitat, and seasonal interest, while also enhancing the environmental performance of cemetery spaces such as planting tree species to withstand strong south-easterly winds and increasing cyclonic conditions as well as improving stormwater attenuation throughout the sites.

Facilities and Maintenance

Maintenance and operational resourcing requirements vary across the cemetery network. Existing facilities (e.g. storage sheds, equipment wash-down areas and staff amenities) are minimal or outdated, which impacts the efficiency and safety of maintenance activities. There are also limited dedicated areas for material stockpiling, contractor parking or waste management.

Opportunities include establishing dedicated maintenance areas, upgrading or consolidating facilities, and reconsidering the approach to irrigated lawn burial areas. Future planning

should also consider record-keeping systems, digital mapping of plots, and staff training to ensure the cemeteries remain safe, respectful and operationally efficient.

Historic Heritage and Cultural Significance

The Bowen, Collinsville and Proserpine cemeteries are of notable historical and cultural value, serving as important resting places for First Peoples and First Nations Peoples, early settlers, migrant communities, and individuals who played a significant role in the development of the Whitsunday region.

Proserpine Cemetery, established in the 1880s, contains graves of pioneer families and Italian migrants, and may also include unmarked graves of Pacific Islander labourers. Its original layout—divided by religious denomination and influenced by seasonal conditions—provides insight into early burial practices and settlement patterns.

Bowen Cemetery, the oldest in the region, reflects the town's historical role as a colonial port and administrative centre. It features graves dating back to the 1860s and includes prominent memorials such as that of James Morrill. The site illustrates the evolution of burial customs over time and is situated in a landscape of continuing cultural importance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Collinsville Cemetery is included on the Queensland Heritage Register (Place ID 602730) due to its association with the coal mining industry and its significance to the local community. It meets heritage Criteria A and G, reflecting both historical development and enduring community connections.

These cemeteries are formally recognised for their heritage significance. Future planning should ensure their conservation is prioritised and supported by appropriate interpretive strategies, including signage, historical mapping, and the sensitive treatment of unmarked, Indigenous, or culturally significant areas, in consultation with relevant communities.



03 ENGAGEMENT

03-1 Pre-Design Engagement

The Whitsunday community has played a critical role in shaping the development of the masterplan. Whitsunday Regional Council invited both key stakeholders and the broader public to provide feedback prior to its preparation.

Consultation was open from Thursday 3 April – Sunday 20 April 2025, for a period of 18 days. Two targeted surveys were undertaken: one aimed at the general community to better understand burial and cremation preferences, and another more detailed survey for stakeholders such as funeral directors, community organisations, and cultural and religious groups. Site visits were also undertaken by key staff and key stakeholders.

Responses included:

- general community short survey:
46 individual submissions.
- detailed key stakeholder survey:
7 individual submissions.

Through this early engagement process, individuals and groups shared valuable insights into how cemeteries were experienced and what should be preserved, improved, or planned for. These contributions ensured the masterplan reflects the needs, values, and expectations of those who use and care for these important spaces.

SITE VISITS (BOWEN CEMETERY)

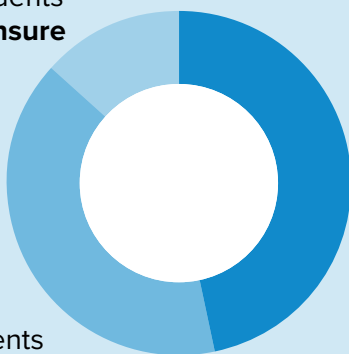


03-2 Pre-Design General Community Short Survey Summary

Key results that are relevant to this masterplan included:

BURIAL OR CREMATION PREFERENCE

13% of respondents were **unsure**

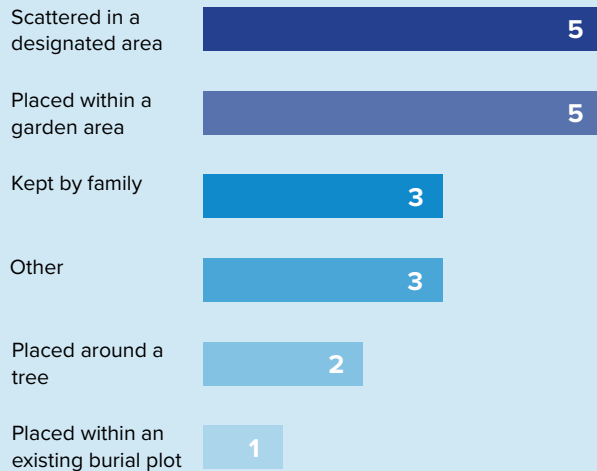
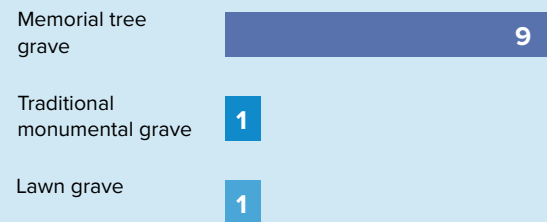


40% of respondents would **prefer to be buried**

47% of respondents would **prefer to be cremated**

80%

respondents would like to be **BURIED OR CREMATED WITHIN THE WHITSUNDAY REGION**

RESPONDENTS ASH INTERMENT**PREFERENCE** (if cremation preferred)**RESPONDENTS BODY INTERMENT****PREFERENCE** (if body burial preferred)**03-3 Pre-Design Detailed Key Stakeholder Survey Summary**

Key results that are relevant to this masterplan included:



Respectful landscapes and rural character are valued, with cultural and historical significance noted, particularly for local groups like the Jangga People.



More diverse interment options desired, including eco-burials, scatter gardens, juvenile sections, cultural memorials and options reflecting ocean connections.



Better landscaping and amenities like shade, seating, wayfinding signage, and peaceful garden spaces.



Improved maintenance and operational efficiency through reduced mowing requirements, stormwater attenuation, strategic planting, clear pathways and other infrastructure upgrades.



Improved access, wayfinding and engagement via maps, digital tools, community programs, and clearer planning info.

04 MASTERPLAN

04-1 Masterplan Overview

This masterplan aims to deliver comprehensive, long-term layout plans and identify future implementation opportunities at each cemetery, ensuring design consistency across the Whitsunday region and alignment with the Cemetery Strategy.



04-2 Design Principles

The following design principles were either directly informed by, or further developed through, engagement with the community and stakeholders. They provide a clear framework to guide the development of this Masterplan and can be used to inform future planning, design, and decision making across the cemetery network.

User Experience

Balance the needs and experiences of individuals, families, the broader community, service providers and the Council at the centre of planning and design.

Digital integration and Record Keeping

Integrate reliable and accessible digital systems to support accurate record keeping and efficient management of interment information.

Improved Access and Connectivity

Enhance physical access across the site for all users, improving wayfinding, safety, and the overall flow of movement while ensuring respectful transitions between spaces.

Future-Ready Planning

Provide sufficient and adaptable space to support future interments. Design should also allow for evolving interment practices, emerging technologies, and innovative approaches to service delivery.

Climate Resilience

Incorporate sustainable materials, water-sensitive design, and adaptable landscaping to mitigate and respond to the effects of climate change, ensuring long-term usability.

Diverse Memorialisation Options

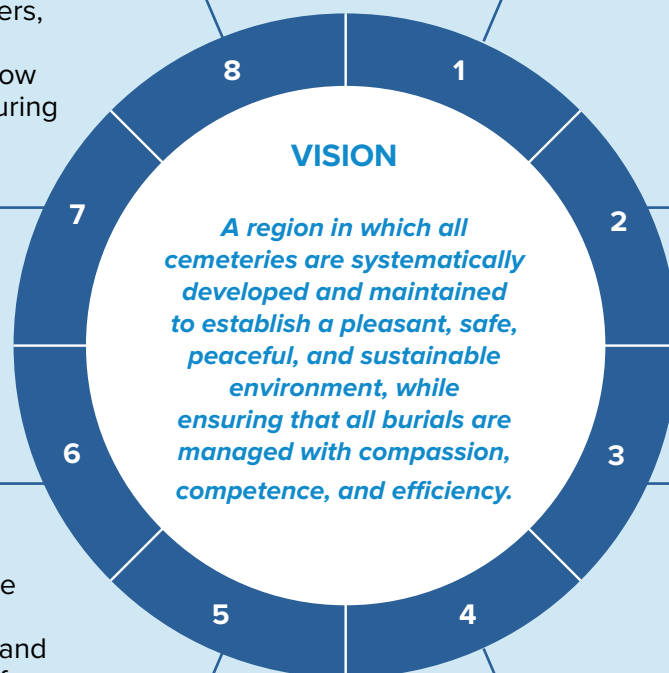
Offer a range of memorial types and formats to suit varying cultural, spiritual, and personal preferences, including traditional, natural, digital, and communal forms.

Consistency in Design

Ensure a consistent design palette is applied across the site through the use of materials and landscaping, while respecting the existing character and heritage.

Inclusive Spaces for Contemplation and Reflection

Create welcoming contemplation and reflection spaces that cater to people of all backgrounds, beliefs, and abilities, offering space for remembrance.



04-3 Interment And Memorialisation Options

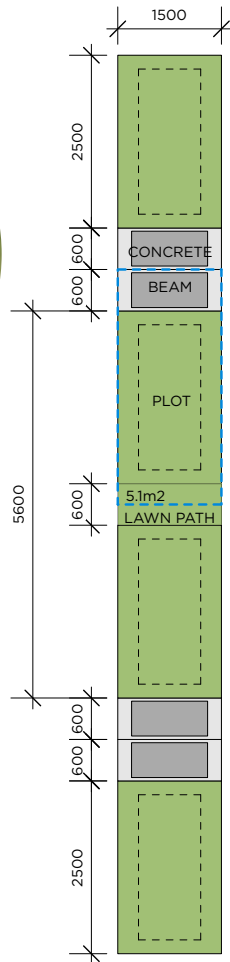
Body lawn burial BL

Provision: All cemeteries

Average land use calculation:
1960 body plots per hectare (1 body plot per 5.1m²)



- Interment of body into lawn areas.
- Headstone or plaque placed on a concrete beam behind the burial plot.

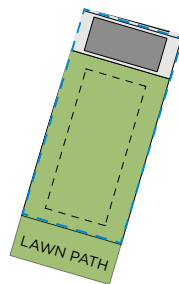


Culturally significant body lawn burial CS

Provision: Bowen and Proserpine cemeteries

Land use calculation:
1960 body plots per hectare (1 body plot per 5.1m²)

- Areas set aside for specific cultural and religious practices.
- In the case of Muslim burials, body lawn burials are arranged in the direction (qibla) of Kaaba, the Sacred Mosque in Mecca. Specific design considerations will need to be worked through with a relevant organisation to ensure compliance with Islamic burial traditions.



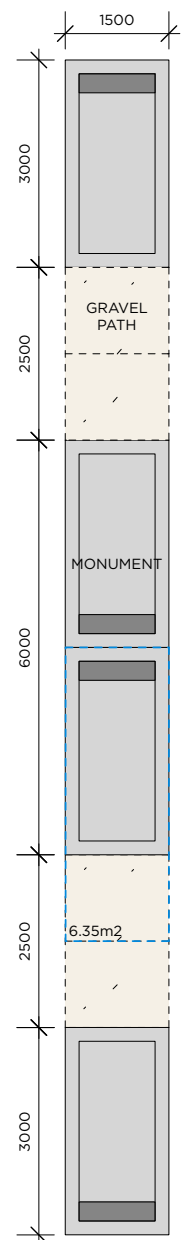
Body monumental burial MB

Provision: All cemeteries

Average land use calculation:
1574 body plots per hectare (1 body plot per 6.35m²)



- Interment of body into lawn areas.
- Children's burial area may have smaller plots.
- Headstone and monument erected on a concrete foundation within the grave site.



* Average body lawn burial land requirement is 5.725m², based on 45% land usage that equates to approximately 786 body interments / ha.

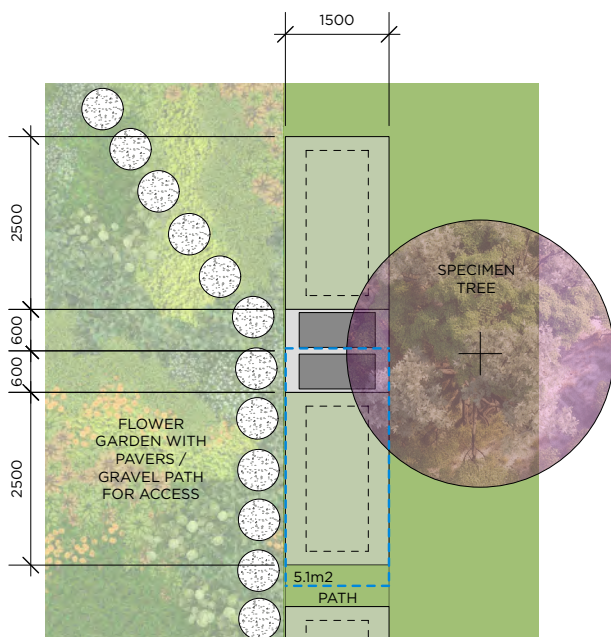
Children's body burial CB

Provision: All cemeteries

Average land use calculation:
1960 body plots per hectare (1 body plot per 5.1m²)



- Interment of body within lawn area
- Headstone or plaque can be placed on a concrete strip behind the burial plot.
- Specific area for children's burials, including those of miscarried, stillborn, or infants under 12 months old. These areas may offer special features like memorial walls, gardens, or unique memorial spaces, such as the Mosaic Butterfly Pathway
- Flower garden maintained in such a way as to allow for interments - consider pavers and gravel path for access.



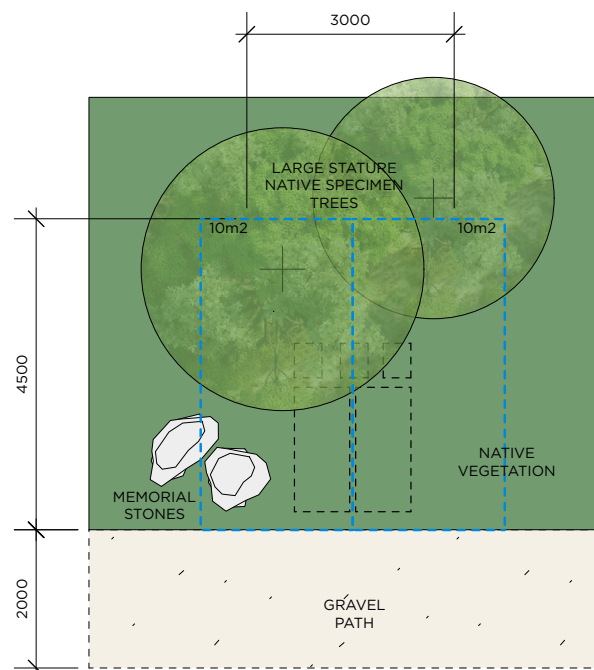
Natural body burial NB

Provision: Bowen and Proserpine cemeteries

Average land use calculation:
1000 body plots per hectare (1 body plot per 10m²)



- Interment of body (in biodegradable coffin or shroud)
- No headstone or monument; natural markers and GPS coordinates to be used.
- Area maintained as natural bushland or grassland to support environmental sustainability.



Columbarium wall (ash)

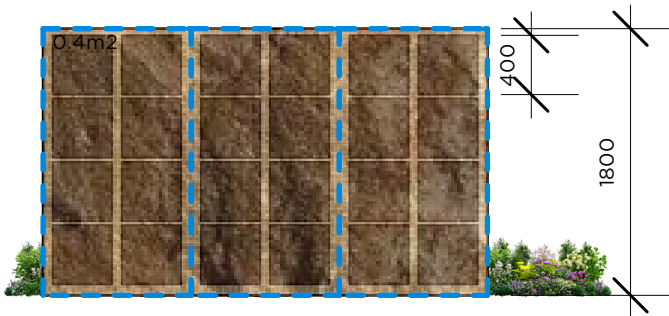
CW

Provision: All cemeteries

Average land use calculation:
 8 single ash plots per linear metre or 0.4m²
 (1.8m high x 0.4m wide wall)



- A columbarium is a designated structure within a cemetery or crematorium that features individual niches for the interment of cremated remains. Each niche is generally enclosed with a memorial plaque, which enables families to personalize the space by inscribing the name of the deceased, along with pertinent dates and other commemorative details.

**Low wall (ash)**

LW

Provision: All cemeteries

Average land use calculation:
 2 single ash plots per linear metre or 0.4m²
 (0.4m high x 0.4m wide wall)



- Low ash wall columbarium structures incorporate walls designed for durability, featuring integrated seating or garden areas situated behind them. These features enhance both functionality and aesthetics, providing a comfortable space for relaxation or gardening activities.



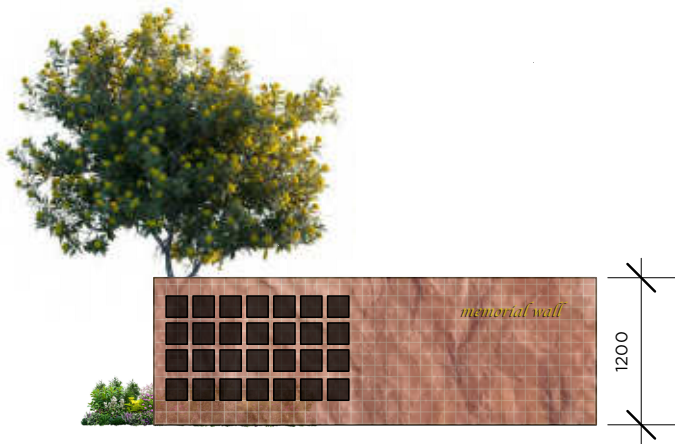
Memorial wall (plaque only)

MW

Provision: All cemeteries

Average land use calculation:*Dependant on plaque dimensions and bespoke wall design*

- A memorial wall is a permanent structure that is frequently inscribed with names, symbols, or messages, designed to commemorate individuals or events, particularly those associated with loss or tragedy. This structure serves as a means to honour the deceased, reflect upon significant historical occurrences, and provide a designated space for contemplation and healing.

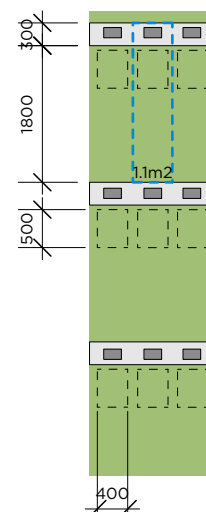
**Lawn beam (ash)**

LB

Provision: Proserpine Cemetery

Average land use calculation:*9090 ash plots per hectare (1 ash plot per 1.1m²)*

- This refers to the burial of cremated remains (ashes) in a designated lawn area where the ashes are interred directly into the ground, typically in an urn or biodegradable container.
- A concrete beam (also called a berm or strip beam) is installed at the head of the plot, set flush or slightly raised above ground level.
- A memorial plaque is affixed to the concrete beam, displaying the deceased's name and details. No upright headstones are used.
- The surrounding area remains as mown grass, maintaining a uniform lawn appearance.



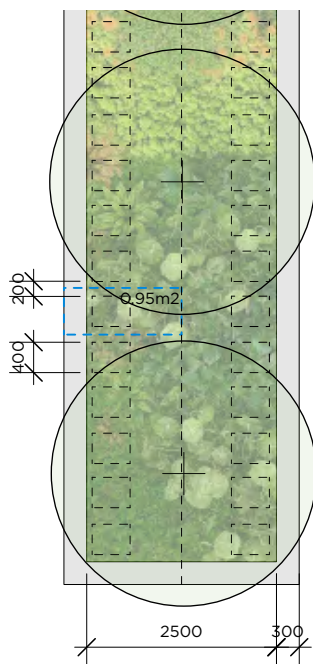
Garden kerb (ash) GK

Provision: All cemeteries

 Average land use calculation:
 10,526 ash plots per hectare (1 ash plot per 0.95m²)



- Ash interment in a garden kerb plot involves placing cremated remains in a landscaped garden bed, bordered by a concrete or stone kerb. Ashes are placed in biodegradable urns below the soil surface.
- A small memorial plaque is installed on the surrounding concrete or stone kerb, and the plot may be enhanced with ornamental planting, offering a peaceful and decorative setting for remembrance.
- These interments often occur in communal garden beds or borders and may allow for low-scale ornamental planting, creating a tranquil and reflective garden environment.

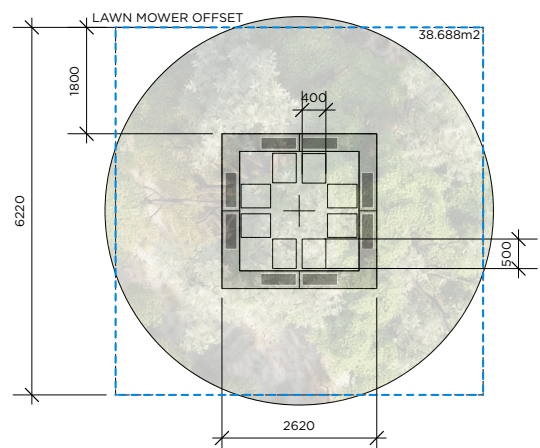
**Tree position (ash)** TP

Provision: All cemeteries

 Average land use calculation:
 2067 ash plots per hectare (1 ash plot per 4.836m²)



- Tree position ash interment refers to the burial of cremated remains adjacent to an existing or newly planted tree within the cemetery landscape.
- Ashes are typically placed in biodegradable urns and interred within the tree's root zone.
- A modest memorial plaque may be installed at ground level upon a surrounding concrete beam, alongside other memorial plaques, or mounted on a natural marker such as a stone or timber post.
- These positions are generally spaced to respect tree health and long-term growth, and are designed to integrate with the natural or park-like setting of the site. This process enriches the soil with nutrients that benefit both the tree and the surrounding ecosystem.



Memorial walk

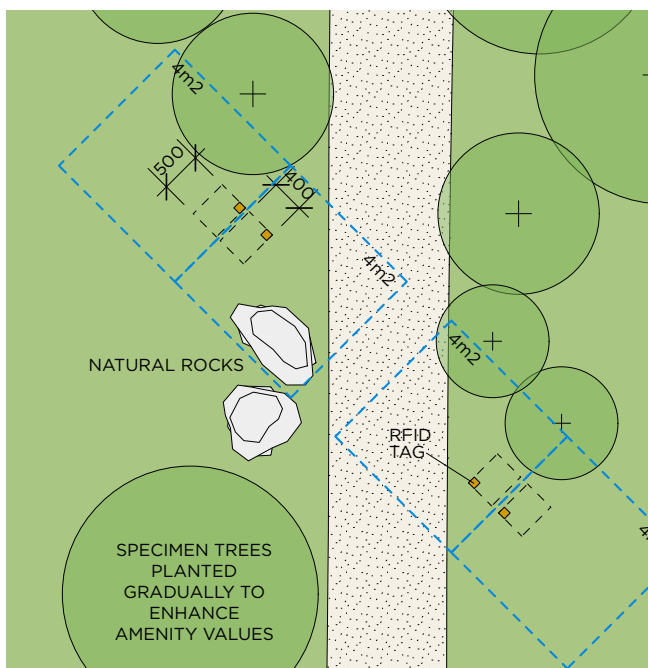


Provision: Bowen and Proserpine cemeteries

Average land use calculation:
2500 ash plots per hectare (1 ash plot per 4m²)



- A memorial walk is a tranquil pathway that seamlessly integrates nature and natural elements into the cemetery's landscape. This serene trail invites visitors to stroll through a peaceful environment where ash interments and memorial features can take place on both sides.
- Rather than traditional headstones, the burial plots remain discreet and unmarked, fostering a sense of unity with the earth. Families and loved ones can identify the resting places of the deceased through a comprehensive list of names displayed elegantly at the entrance, maintaining a respectful and contemplative atmosphere that encourages reflection on life and nature.



Frangipani memorial tree grove

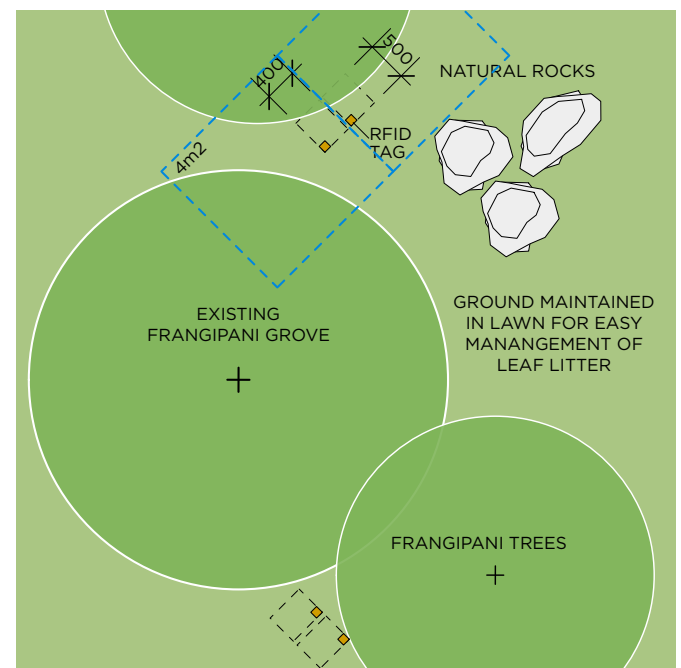


Provision: Bowen Cemetery

Average land use calculation:
2500 ash plots per hectare (1 ash plot per 4m²)



- Ash interment in a memorial tree grove involves the burial of cremated remains at the base of a commemorative (frangipani) tree.
- Each tree may serve as a shared or individual memorial, with ashes typically interred in biodegradable urns, either directly into the soil or within a dedicated root zone, to support tree health and ecological function.
- A low-profile plaque (e.g. stone or bronze), and/or an RFID tag may be set flush into the ground or mounted on a natural rock or timber post adjacent to the tree.
- The grove is designed to offer a contemplative setting with minimal visual intrusion from traditional cemetery structures.



04-4 Bowen Cemetery Masterplan

Address

36 - 74 West Street, Bowen Qld 4805
Access from John Street and Richmond Road

Urban Cemetery

Land Area

315HR991 - 2.825ha / 309HR991 - 3.994 ha

Zone / Overlays

- Community Facilities Zone
- Urban Growth Region
- I% AEP Flood
- Flood Hazard V4.7

Cemetery Summary

Bowen was the first port established in North Queensland. Following commercial and agricultural development within the area, the township of Bowen was declared a municipality in 1863, and a cemetery reserve provisioned by survey shortly after.

Referred to for some time as the 'John Street Cemetery', Bowen cemetery was used interchangeably with nearby Flemington Road Cemetery between 1878 and 1954 after which all burials were focused at 'John Street Cemetery' *.

Bowen Cemetery contains the graves of numerous early Bowen settlers, including an obelisk to James Morrill, an English-born sailor*.

Bowen Cemetery demonstrates the early phase of settlement in Bowen and is significant for its on-going spiritual and symbolic value to the Bowen community.

* Whitsunday Local Heritage Register - Bowen Heritage Placecards

Site Analysis Legend

Existing Interment Types

- 1 Body monumental burial (3 x old sections / east-facing graves)
- 2 Body monumental burial (new section / east and west-facing graves)
- 3 Body lawn burial (east and west-facing graves).
- 4 Palm memorial garden (ash)
- 5 Columbarium walls (ash)
- 6 Potential unmarked graves
- 7 Approximate location of children / infant graves*
- 8 Obelisk to James Morrill, an early settler

Key Landscape Features

- 9 High rock shelf. Raising of ground level has been undertaken to allow for future interments
- 10 Moderate level change
- 11 Stormwater drainage through site
- 12 Existing frangipani gardens (30+ years old)

Existing Cemetery Assets

-  Toilet block (accessible)
-  Seating
-  Bin storage
-  Signage
-  Water supply



Bowen Cemetery Masterplan Key Moves

1. Redirect stormwater off site into road reserve.
2. Gradually establish dense native plantings within sloped and lower areas of the site, between old and future interment areas. Explore future natural interments along walkway.
3. Reconfigure internal traffic direction to one-way from West Street through to John Street. Investigate options to remove white entry wall/s at John Street and replace with new stone walls and/or security gate.
4. Remove existing palm trees (where required) to provide parallel parking option adjacent existing accessway.
5. Provision for a small drop-off and accessible parking area near the existing toilet
6. Introduce new main entrance off West Street where stormwater drain is shallow and access is feasible and install new stone entry wing walls.
7. Introduce a one-way loop road within raised future section of cemetery with provision for temporary and permanent parking options as interment layout develops. Reconfigure existing irrigation layout to align with future body burial layout in raised section.
8. Provision for a main future gathering area with associated shelter, columbarium walls, seating and cemetery map. Establish pedestrian access to and from Whitsunday Funerals and Crematorium.
9. Continuation of lawn interment areas with a greater amount of associated tree planting for shade and amenity.
10. Provision for a greater range of ash interment options in the new sections e.g. memorial walk, garden kerb, various wall options and the frangipani memorial tree grove.
11. Provision for aggregate between historic monumental graves to reduce drone weed spray / maintenance.
12. Provision of a new screened maintenance wash-down, bin and storage area. Accessible to both old and new areas.
13. Remove blue walls adjacent existing columbarium walls. Extend and enhance landscaping at boundary.
14. Utilise existing water connection for an additional wash down area, screened by additional landscaping. Remove blue walls. Opportunity to include interpretation panels regarding the history of Johns Road (Bowen) and Flemington cemeteries and local history.
15. Commission a comprehensive signage and way finding strategy for the cemetery network alongside (and consistent) with improved digital records.

Masterplan Legend

Existing Interment Areas

-  Existing body interments (lawn / monument)
-  Vacant plots within established interment areas

Proposed Interment Areas

-  Body lawn burial
-  Culturally significant body lawn burial
* Note: If Muslim burials are to be developed in this area beams can not be back-to-back and design requires compliance with Islamic burial traditions.
-  Body monumental burial
-  Children's body burial
-  Natural body burial
-  Columbarium wall (ash)
-  Low wall (ash)
-  Memorial wall (plaque only)
-  Garden kerb (ash)
-  Tree position (ash)
-  Memorial walk (ash / plaque with RFID tag)
-  Frangipani memorial tree grove (ash with RFID tag)

Landscape Features / Cemetery Assets

-  Internal road network
-  Footpaths
-  Memorial walk
-  Boundary treatment (fence or planting strategy)
-  Key parking areas (sealed)
-  Toilets (existing + proposed)
-  Shelter
-  Cemetery map
-  Way finding / interpretation panels
-  Seating
-  Water supply
-  Bin storage
-  Columbarium / memorial walls
-  Native plantings and cyclone tolerant shade trees
-  Tree removals



Bowen Cemetery Masterplan Key Moves - Site Photos





04-5 Collinsville Cemetery Masterplan

Address

155 Scottville Road, Collinsville Qld 4804

Rural Cemetery

Land Area

Lot 26 SP106412 - 4.337 Hectares

Zone / Overlays

- Community facilities
- Sub-purpose - Sewerage
- Medium bushfire hazard risk at northern extent of site
- MSES Regulated Vegetation (100m from wetlands)
- State Heritage Place
- Adjacent land zoned Waste Management and Waste Water facility
- Native title / Determined Native Heritage Site

Cemetery Summary

Collinsville cemetery being the newest of the cemeteries, was gazetted for burials from 1927 to serve the mining townships of Collinsville and Scottville. The earliest grave at this site was Agnes Ramage who passed away on the 10th September 1927.

The Collinsville cemetery was listed on the Queensland Heritage Register on 18th September 2009, in recognition of a place of burial of at least 23 miners killed between 1928 and 1954 at the Bowen Consolidated Colliery and the Collinsville (Bowen) State Mine. Seven Miners were killed in an accident at the Collinsville State Mine in October 1954, one of the state's worst mining accidents.

The site originally appointed to trustees, was handed over to Bowen Shire Council in 1995.

Site Analysis Legend

Existing Interment Types

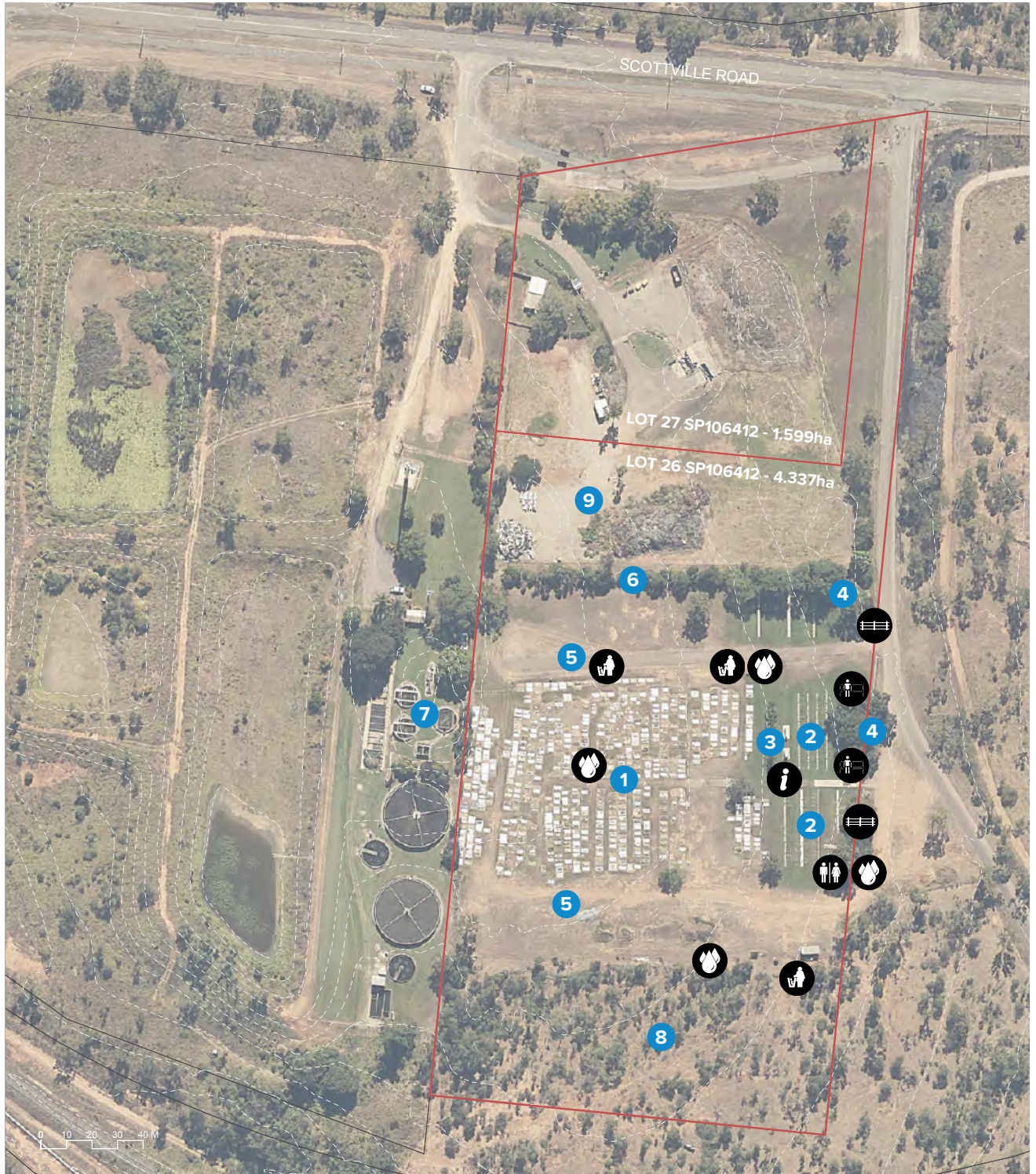
- 1 Body monumental burial
- 2 Body lawn burial
- 3 Columbarium walls (ash)

Key Landscape Features

- 4 Large-stature specimen trees
- 5 Established gravel vehicle accessways
- 6 Densely vegetated northern boundary
- 7 Collinsville Water Treatment Plant
- 8 Sensitive biodiversity within southern extent of site
- 9 Lot 27 lease arrangement expires 2038. Transfer station (noise + amenity considerations)

Existing Cemetery Assets

-  Toilet block (septic tank)
-  Seating
-  Bin storage
-  Signage
-  Water supply
-  Boundary fence



Collinsville Cemetery Masterplan Key Moves

1. Continue existing interment options in a well-planned manner to avoid ad-hoc placement of lawn beams and burials.
2. Improve vehicle access and road surfacing and include an area for 3-point turns along the two main accessways. Provision for future access to northern and southern cemetery expansion areas.
3. Opportunity to relocate toilet onto state land.
4. Opportunity to retain majority of parking on state land.
5. Provision of a central shelter and gathering area with associated memorial garden within the location of existing concrete pad.
6. Tree planting and amenity improvements across the site, including planting directly on the boundary between the water treatment plant and cemetery, as well as tree planting for shade along the roads. Explore climbing species on existing wire fence along western boundary of the site.
7. Investigate the opportunity for a children's / infant burial section with flower garden and informal / contemporary layout.
8. Investigate the opportunity for a 'brotherhood' burial section for miners.
9. Match new columbarium walls with existing finishing.
10. Re-locate juvenile palm trees (indicated in red) and transplant into new garden kerb (ash) memorial garden around mature palm trees.
11. Investigate land-use and biodiversity regulations for medium-term expansion into southern extent of Lot 26. Explore natural burials alongside vegetation management.
12. Confirm lease arrangements on northern Lot 27 and plan for long-term cemetery expansion. Review lease after 10+ years for suitability for cemetery expansion.
13. Provision of a screened maintenance wash-down, bin and storage area.
14. Commission a comprehensive signage and way finding strategy for the cemetery network alongside (and consistent) with improved digital records.

Masterplan Legend

Existing Interment Areas

-  Existing body interments (lawn / monument)
-  Vacant plots within established interment areas

Proposed Interment Areas

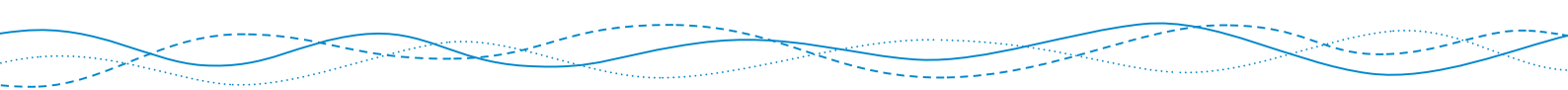
-  Body lawn burial
-  Body monumental burial
-  Children's body burial
-  Columbarium wall (ash)
-  Low wall (ash)
-  Memorial wall (plaque only)
-  Garden kerb (ash)
-  Tree position (ash)

Landscape Features / Cemetery Assets

-  Internal road network
-  Footpaths
-  Boundary treatment (fence or planting strategy)
-  Key parking areas (sealed)
-  Toilets (existing + proposed)
-  Shelter
-  Cemetery map
-  Way finding / interpretation panels
-  Seating
-  Water supply
-  Bin storage
-  Columbarium / memorial walls
-  Native plantings and shade trees
-  Tree removals



Collinsville Cemetery Masterplan Key Moves - Site Photos





04-6 Proserpine Cemetery Masterplan

Address

Old Monumental Section - Lot 235 Faust Street
Proserpine Qld 4800

Land Area

235HR1184 - 2.2 Hectares

Lawn Section - 307 Crystal Brook Road, Proserpine
Qld 4800

179HR980 - 6.397 Hectares

Zone / Overlays

- Community Facilities Zone
- I% AEP Flood
- Flood Hazard V4.7
- Urban growth area adjacent site
- MSES Regulated Vegetation (category B)

Cemetery Summary

Proserpine Cemetery is located on Proserpine's western outskirts, bordered by cane paddocks to the south, Boundary Road to the west and Faust Street to the east.

The cemetery is divided into three main sections (east, central and west) with older graves located within the south-east extent of the site. This older section of the cemetery is prone to flooding.

The northern area of the cemetery contains more recent body lawn burials and columbarium walls which fall within a separate lot that is not included in the heritage register.

Gravel tracks run through and around the site, and the three distinct areas are accessed via unmarked driveways which also serve as informal parking.

The Proserpine cemetery was first used in the 1880s and placed under the control of the Proserpine Shire Council in c.1912. It is the final resting place for many of Proserpine's pioneer settlers and migrants, and as such is a valuable physical record of the district's social history and community.

Site Analysis Legend

Existing Interment Types

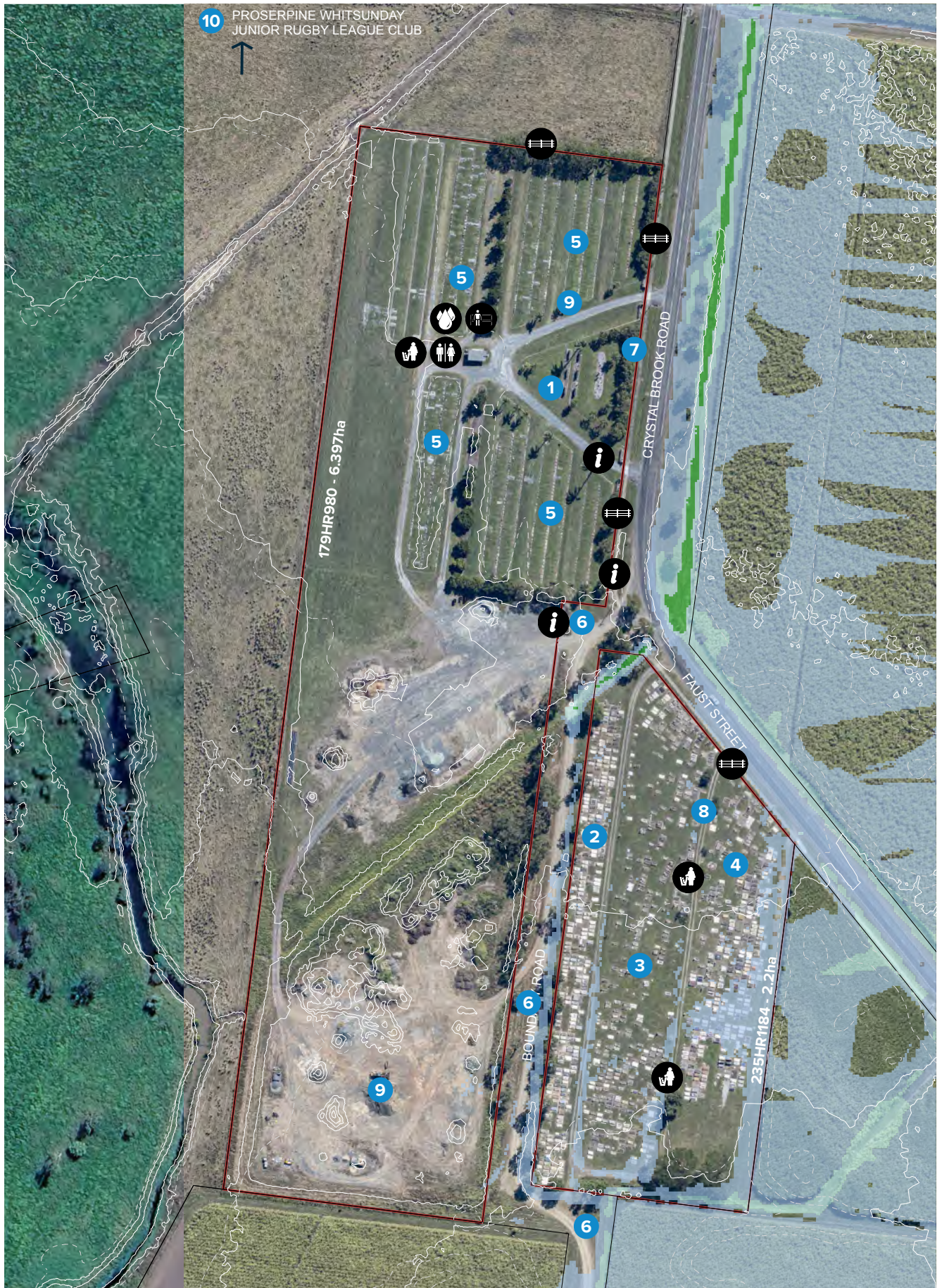
- 1 Columbarium wall
- 2 Monumental burial (new protestant)
- 3 Monumental burial (old protestant)
- 4 Monumental burial (catholic)
- 5 Lawn burial

Existing Key Landscape Features

- 6 Parking within road reserve
 - 7 Mature trees windblown (block views into cemetery)
 - 8 Susceptible to flooding (access and egress issues)
 - 9 Undeveloped land used as clean fill site for construction waste
 - 10 Connection with Rugby club directly north
- Identified flood hazard areas

Existing Cemetery Assets

-  Toilet block
-  Seating
-  Bin storage
-  Signage
-  Water supply
-  Boundary fence



Proserpine Cemetery Masterplan Key Moves

1. Improvements to drainage across the site.
2. Re-form grass roads to deter water away from concrete beams and undertake additional tree planting to improve water uptake through roots.
3. Tree plantings and seating throughout the site including tree planting within the older section alongside internal roads.
4. Improved accessibility and circulation.
5. Continuation of body lawn burial areas to the west (short term).
6. Application for reduction in speed limit (60km) along Faust and Crystal Brook Roads.
7. Potential closure of future monumental/ vaulted burials due to health + safety risks and movement of existing burials.
8. Provision of a reflection and ash interment area for families still wishing to inter in the old section.
9. Provision of a shelter and gathering space, with an expanded memorial garden near the existing niche walls and toilet block.
10. Remove boundary trees and open views into the expanded memorial garden.
11. Continue existing white boundary fence along eastern cemetery boundary.
12. Upgrade footpaths around existing niche walls. Improve all-weather accessibility to this area.
13. Opportunity to introduce lawn beam (ash) interments within a future contemporary expansion area of the cemetery.
14. Provision for an additional shelter and gathering space to service the southern extent of the site.
15. Investigate future interments in the clean fill section – this area may have to be excluded from the masterplan for future interments.
16. Opportunity to revegetate the waterway through the site for enhanced amenity. Potential nature walkway and future natural interments.
17. Provision for screened maintenance wash-down and storage bin area.
18. Commission a comprehensive signage and way finding strategy for the cemetery network alongside (and consistent) with improved digital records.

Masterplan Legend

Existing Interment Areas

-  Existing body interments (lawn / monument)
-  Vacant plots within established interment areas

Proposed Interment Areas

-  Body lawn burial
-  Children's body burial
-  Natural body burial
-  Columbarium wall (ash)
-  Low wall (ash)
-  Memorial wall (plaque only)
-  Garden kerb (ash)
-  Tree position (ash)
-  Lawn beam (ash)
-  Memorial walk (ash / plaque with RFID tag)

Landscape Features / Cemetery Assets

-  Internal road network
-  Footpaths
-  Memorial walk
-  Boundary treatment (fence or planting strategy)
-  Key parking areas (sealed)
-  Toilets (existing + proposed)
-  Shelter
-  Cemetery map
-  Way finding / interpretation panels
-  Seating
-  Water supply
-  Bin storage
-  Columbarium / memorial walls
-  Native plantings and cyclone tolerant shade trees
-  Tree removals



Proserpine Cemetery Masterplan Key Moves - Site Photos







05 IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES

05-1 Introduction

The following tables indicate practical implementation actions across the individual cemetery masterplans. Prioritisation is based on individual cemetery interment demand and supply, spatial design considerations, constructibility, landscape constraints, health and safety risks, public feedback, consent requirements, costs, and the current understanding of resource and budget constraints.

Final implementation timing is to align with short-term asset priorities and will be determined through the Cemetery Strategy and Council's relevant planning processes.



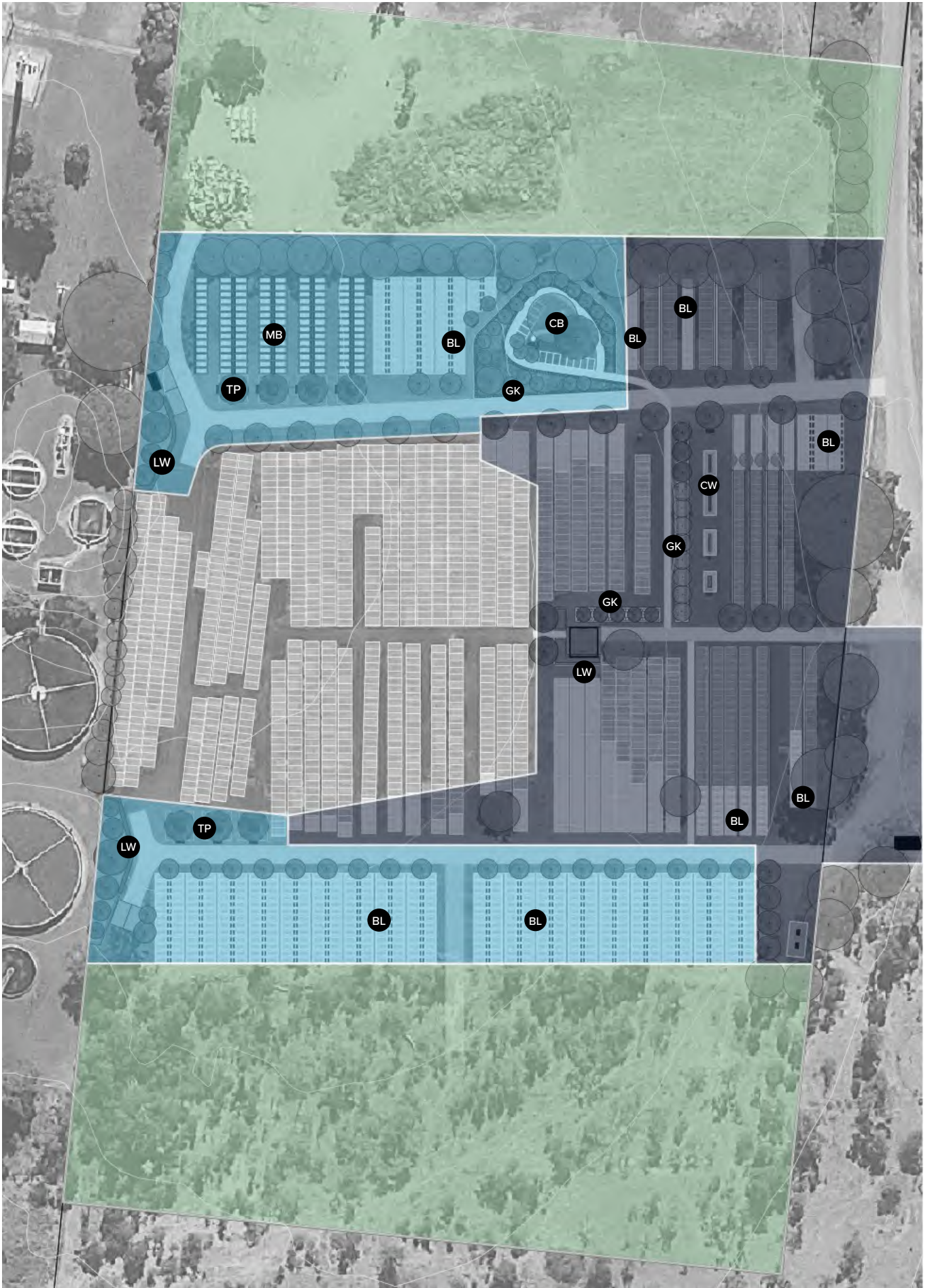
05-2 Bowen Cemetery Masterplan Prioritisation Table

	HIGH PRIORITY	MEDIUM PRIORITY	LOW PRIORITY
INTERMENT AREAS	Develop new interment areas including: - Body lawn burial areas (BL) (172 plots). - Body monumental burial areas (MB) (164 plots). - Frangipani memorial tree grove (ash with RFID tag) (FG) (428 plots). - Tree position (ash) (TP) (16 plots). - Garden kerb (ash) (GK) (549 plots). - Low wall (LW) (24 plots). - Memorial walk ash (W) (250 plots). - Natural body burial (NB) - establish vegetation only.	Develop new interment areas including: - Body lawn burial areas (BL) (641 plots). - Children's body burial (CB) (70 plots). - Tree position (ash) (TP) (96 plots). - Garden kerb (ash) (GK) (126 plots). - Columbarium wall (CW) (88 plots). - Low wall (LW) (88 plots). - Memorial walk ash (W) (250 plots). - Natural body burial (NB) - establish further vegetation / open small section for body and ash interments (61 plots).	Develop new interment areas including: - Body lawn burial areas (BL) (811 plots - less is eastern section used for monumental burials). - Tree position (ash) (TP) (72 plots). - Memorial wall (MW) (28 plots if used for ash). - Garden kerb (ash) (GK) (170 plots). - Natural body burial (NB) - complete plantings along length of walkway / open additional section for body and ash interments (124 plots).
ACCESSIBILITY	Introduce new main entrance off West Street where stormwater drain is shallow and access is feasible and install new stone entry wing walls. Reconfigure internal traffic direction to one-way. Investigate options to remove white entry wall/s at John Street and replace with new stone walls. Develop a small drop-off and accessible parking area near the existing toilet following road widening works. Remove (or relocate) existing palm trees along existing accessway to allow for parking spaces. Implement the first section of the loop road to unlock upper section of the cemetery. Develop first section of new footpath network.	Develop the next section of the loop road within raised section of the cemetery. Provision for a temporary road along the northern boundary of the body lawn burial area for vehicle movement. Temporary road to be retired to footpath network and garden kerb (GK) interments long term. Provision for temporary and permanent parking options as interment layout develops. Develop next section of new footpath network, including access to West Street and Whitsunday Funerals & Crematorium (Bowen).	Complete the loop road within raised section of the cemetery. Transition the temporary road along the northern boundary of the body lawn burial area to footpath. Establish garden kerb (GK) interments. Retire temporary parking areas. Complete footpath network.
VISITOR INFRASTRUCTURE	Provision of a new screened maintenance wash-down, bin and storage area behind existing toilet block. Accessible to both old and new areas. Commission a comprehensive signage and way finding strategy for the cemetery network alongside (and consistent) with improved digital records.	Implement signage and way finding strategy. Utilise existing water connection near ex service buildings for an additional wash down area. Screen with new landscaping and remove existing blue walls.	Provision for interpretation panels describing the history of Bowen and Flemington cemeteries, as well and local people and families.
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT	Start to establish cyclone tolerant native tree species for shade. Establish first section of dense native vegetation within sloped section of the site (adjacent walkway) for future natural burials. Redirect stormwater off site into road reserve.	Reconfigure existing drainage layout within the upper areas of the site to align with new interment layout. Provision for aggregate between historic monumental graves to reduce drone weed spray / maintenance. Continue planting dense native vegetation within sloped section of the site (adjacent walkway) for future natural burials. Further planting of cyclone tolerant native tree species for shade.	Complete planting dense native vegetation within sloped section of the site (adjacent walkway) for future natural burials.
AMENITY	Introduce a small shelter, seating and low wall within the southwest corner of the site. Remove blue walls adjacent existing columbarium walls. Extend and enhance landscaping at boundary. Provide further seating under shade trees.	Introduce a main shelter and gathering area surrounded by low walls and cyclone tolerant native tree species for shade and memorial. Provide further seating under shade trees.	Provision for memorial wall at the north-western corner of the cemetery. Large specimen trees for shade and memorial. Provide further seating under shade trees.



05-3 Collinsville Cemetery Masterplan Prioritisation Table

	HIGH PRIORITY	MEDIUM PRIORITY	LOW PRIORITY
INTERMENT AREAS	Develop new interment areas including: - Body lawn burial areas (BL) (130 plots). - Columbarium wall (ash) (CW) (64 Plots). - Low wall (ash) (LW) (66 Plots). - Garden kerb (ash) (GK) (200 plots).	Develop new interment areas including: - Body lawn burial areas (BL) (560 plots). - Body monumental burial areas (MB) (126 plots). - Children's body burial (CB) (14 plots). - Tree position (ash) (TP) (56 plots) - Garden kerb (ash) (GK) (545 plots). - Low wall (ash) (LW) (88 Plots). Provision for a 'brotherhood' burial section for miners.	Explore body lawn, natural burials and ash interment options in the southern section of the cemetery first. Explore body lawn burials and ash interment options in the northern section of the cemetery last.
ACCESSIBILITY	Improve vehicle access and road surfacing and include an area for 3-point turns (north section first). Confirm lease arrangements on northern Lot 27. Commit to review of lease after 10+ years for suitability for cemetery expansion.	Improve vehicle access and road surfacing and include an area for 3-point turns (south section).	Provision for future access to northern and southern cemetery expansion areas. Focus on expending south first.
VISITOR INFRASTRUCTURE	Opportunity to relocate toilet onto state land. Provision of a screened maintenance wash-down, bin and storage area.	Formalise parking on state land. Implement comprehensive signage and way finding strategy and improved digital records.	
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT			Investigate land-use and biodiversity regulations for expansion into southern extent of Lot 26.
AMENITY	Provision of a central shelter and gathering area within the location of existing concrete pad. Re-locate juvenile palm trees (indicated in red) and transplant into new garden kerb (ash) memorial garden around mature palm trees. Investigate financial tree planting strategy to enable trees to establish early. Tree plantings along the boundary between the water treatment plant and cemetery. Explore climbing species on existing wire fence along western boundary of the site.	Establish memorial garden around central shelter. Tree plantings for shade along the access roads. Establish garden plantings around children's / infant burial section with flowers and informal design layout.	



05-3 Proserpine Cemetery Masterplan Prioritisation Table

	HIGH PRIORITY	MEDIUM PRIORITY	LOW PRIORITY
INTERMENT AREAS	Develop new interment areas including: • Body lawn burial areas (BL) (504 plots). • Tree position (ash) (TP) (176 plots). • Garden kerb (ash) (GK) (1,210 plots). • Columbarium wall (CW) (64 plots). • Low wall (LW) (76 plots). • Memorial walk ash (W) (362 plots). Potential closure of future monumental/vaulted burials due to health + safety risks and movement of existing burials.	Develop new interment areas including: • Body lawn burial areas (BL) (1,065 plots - fewer plots if south-east section used for MB). • Children's body burial (CB) (45 plots). • Tree position (ash) (TP) (48 plots). • Garden kerb (ash) (GK) (823 plots). • Low wall (LW) (60 plots). • Lawn beam (ash) (LB) (435 plots). • Memorial wall (MW) (62 plots if used for ash). • Memorial walk ash (W) (362 plots). • Natural body burial (NB) - (78 body plots / 117 ash).	Investigate future interments in the clean fill section – this area may have to be excluded from the masterplan for future interments.
ACCESSIBILITY	Improved accessibility and circulation (north). Application for reduction in speed limit (60km) along Faust and Crystal Brook Roads.	Improved accessibility and circulation (south). Establish new parking area and associated shelter in southern section of cemetery.	Extend internal main accessway into southern extent of site to unlock future interment areas.
VISITOR INFRASTRUCTURE	Continue existing white boundary fence along eastern cemetery boundary. Upgrade footpaths around existing niche walls. Improve all-weather accessibility to this area. Provision for screened maintenance wash-down and storage bin area along south-western boundary.	Provision for an additional shelter and gathering space to service the southern extent of the site.	
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT	Re-form grass roads in northern section of the cemetery to deter water away from concrete beams. Improve drainage with tree plantings for ground water uptake.	Opportunity to revegetate the waterway through the site for enhanced amenity. Potential nature walkway and future natural interments.	Ongoing maintenance and revegetation of waterway through the site for enhanced amenity.
AMENITY	Provision of a shelter and gathering space near the existing niche walls and toilet block. Introduce seating early into existing cemetery areas. Provision of a reflection and ash interment area for families still wishing to inter in the old section.	New memorial garden with low walls and decorative planting visible from main road. Remove boundary trees and open views into the expanded memorial garden.	





FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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