

Beryl Report No:	RGB12-05-03
File No:	
Date:	27 April 2012
Decision Required	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Golden Bay Community Board
Meeting Date: 8 May 2012
Report Author: Reserves Manager
Subject: Rototai Cemetery - Natural Burial Area

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To present to the Community Board a draft concept plan for the location and design of the proposed Natural Burial Area for Rototai Cemetery.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1 That this report be received.
- 2 That the Community Board approves the draft concept plan for the location and design of the Natural Burial Area for Rototai Cemetery and recommends to Council that this project now proceeds.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Golden Bay Community Board:

- 1 **Receives the Rototai Cemetery – Natural Burial Area Report RGB12-05-03; and**
- 2 **Approves the draft concept plan for the location and design of the Natural Burial Area for Rototai Cemetery and recommends to Council that this project now proceeds.**

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Subject: **Rototai Cemetery – Natural Burial Area**

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To present to the Community Board a draft concept plan for the location and design of the proposed Natural Burial Area for Rototai Cemetery.

2. Background

- 2.1 In 2009 Council adopted the Cemetery Standard Operating Procedures. Within that document was a section on Natural Burial Areas and it was proposed at that time that these areas would be established in Motueka, Rototai and Spring Grove Cemeteries if these areas deemed to be suitable for this type of burial.
- 2.2 A Natural Burial Area was established in the Motueka Cemetery in 2010 and now has six interments. It is providing an alternative style of burial for those wanting a more natural and less formal style of interment.

3. Present Situation/Matters to be Considered

- 3.1 The area selected for the Natural Burial Area is located such that it is near the oak trees planted some years ago so the planting of the grave sites will fit in with this area. It fits in with the future expansion on the Cemetery in general and is close to an existing entranceway and car parking area.
- 3.2 The entranceway will require upgrading; a short length of roadway will need to be formed for access and the fence will require relocation to allow for the continued grazing of the rest of the area.
- 3.3 Council Soil Scientist staff reviewed the suitability of this area in regards to soil types, water tables, water movement and stormwater. Test holes will be dug in this area to confirm water levels. However it is deemed to be suitable for such burials.

4. Financial/Budgetary Considerations

- 4.1 In the 2010/11 financial year \$10,500.00 was allocated from the Reserve Financial Contributions for the development of this area. This funding has been carried forward to allow for the project to proceed.

5. Options

- 5.1 (Option 1) – Status quo. The Community Board recommends to Council that a Natural Burial Area in Rototai Cemetery is not required and that this project does not proceed.
- 5.2 (Option 2) – To agree. The Community Board approves the draft concept plan for the Natural Burial Area in Rototai Cemetery and recommends to Council that the project proceed in this location.
- 5.3 (Option 3) - To decline. The Community Board decline the draft plan and offer alternative locations for the Natural Burial Area and recommend to Council that they approve the alternative location.

6. Pros and Cons of Options

- 6.1 Option 1 – has the advantage of being no cost to Council but may result in the community being upset as there is an expectation that a Natural Burial Area will be established in Rototai Cemetery.
- 6.2 Option 2 – the Community Board agree to the location of the Natural Burial area as per the draft concept plan as it fits in with the future expansion of the cemetery.
- 6.3 Option 3 – the Community Board offer an alternative location however this would need to be an area close to the existing access and parking, not inhibit the future expansion of the cemetery, be suitable for the planting of trees and shrubs and allow the rest of the area to continue to be grazed.

7. Evaluation of Options

- 7.1 Option 1 – the Community Board recommend to Council that a Natural Burial Area is not required at Rototai Cemetery and the project does not proceed, however in the Cemetery Operating Standards it is stated that if deemed

suitable a Natural Burial Area would be established at Rototai Cemetery and I have had a number of local residents querying me when this area will be established.

- 7.2 Option 2 – the Community Board agree to the location of the Natural Burial Area as per the draft concept plan as it fits in with the future expansion of the Cemetery, is close to the accesway, parking, established trees and allows the rest of the area to continue to be grazed.
- 7.3 Option 3 - the Community Board offer an alternative location however this would need to be an area close to the existing access and parking, not inhibit the future expansion of the cemetery, be suitable for the planting of trees and shrubs and allow the rest of the area to continue to be grazed. The future expansion of the Cemetery if important as we need to maximise the space for burials and ash interments if areas are disjointed it could reduce the overall space in the Cemetery and its long term viability.

8. Significance

- 8.1 This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Significance Policy.

9. Recommendation/s

- 9.1 That this report be received.
- 9.2 That the Community Board recommends to Council that the draft concept plan for the Natural Burial Area be approved.

10. Timeline/Next Steps

- 10.1 If the Committee approves the plan the development of the Natural Burial Area in Rototai Cemetery can proceed.

11. Draft Resolution

THAT the Golden Bay Community Board:

- 1 Receives the Rototai Cemetery – Natural Burial Area Report RGB12-05-03; and**

- 2 Approves the draft concept plan for the location and design of the Natural Burial Area for Rototai Cemetery and recommends to Council that this project now proceeds.**

Beryl Wilkes
Reserves Manager

Appendices:
Draft Concept Plan

