Media Release

18 February 2022

Interment options at Boyne Tannum Memorial Parklands set to provide longterm sustainability

Gladstone Regional Council is taking steps to ensure the Boyne Tannum Memorial Parklands remains a sustainable facility that is available for public use for many years to come.

Council wants to ensure the Boyne Tannum Memorial Parklands is sustainable in terms of environmental, social and economic impacts, as well as ensuring the facility remains tranquil and beautiful into the future.

One of these steps is to increase ashes interment capacity due to a recent decision to no longer offer crypt burials at the facility.

Boyne Tannum Memorial Parklands has not been accepting crypt burial reservations since November 2020 due to capacity constraints caused by land availability and the proximity to the Q100 flood level.

Gladstone Region Councillor Chris Trevor said this decision came after a thorough assessment of the facility as part of the Gladstone Region Cemetery Plan (January 2022).

"Council is focused on making an informed decision using information on the existing land suitability for expansion, burial frequency, cost to service, alternate sites for burials, and the development of a region-wide strategic cemetery plan," Councillor Trevor said.

"In recent years the Boyne Tannum Memorial Parklands has become a popular ashes interment site with almost 80 per cent of interments being ashes.

"Freestanding stone ashes plots with multiple interment capacity of up to four interments will continue to be offered with reservations available.

"Having up to four interments per freestanding stone ashes plot offers environmental benefits while also being financially beneficial for families.

"We are also investigating additional ashes interment options including a Columbarium Wall and aesthetic improvements to the ashes walkway plots."

Cr Trevor said a region-wide strategic cemetery plan will inform an action plan for Council controlled cemeteries, crematorium and memorial parkland facilities and sets the future direction for cemeteries within the Gladstone Region.

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"Council remains committed to providing residents with alternate options and beautiful facilities for their loved ones both now and for future generations to come," he said.

 $\label{thm:www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/cemeteries} \ for more information about the Gladstone \ Region's \ cemetery \ network.$

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