
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Manly Cemetery columbarium and memorial garden (Stage 1 of 2).

Impact level: 4

Consultation period: 9 March to 26 April 2021

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1. Summary¹

This report outlines the community and stakeholder engagement conducted from 9 March to 26 April 2021 as part of the Manly Cemetery columbarium and memorial garden project.

Overall, the proposal was supported by the majority of respondents recognising a need for more burial options on the Northern Beaches and several enquiring about the process to secure a burial niche.




While the comments were largely in favour of constructing a new columbarium wall and memorial garden, many comments included slight design modifications.

It was raised that the proposed wall was too high, creating a visual and physical barrier which would potentially detract from the existing character and heritage value of the cemetery.

Some comments suggested softening the wall by adding curves or setbacks to the design or more plantings along the wall. They felt this would also provide additional privacy for visitors.





Several respondents questioned the need for a new wall, preferring it to remain as open space.

1.1. Key outcomes




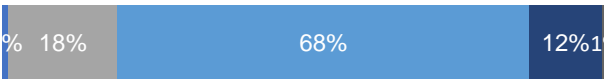
		
Comments received online		76
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Comments received at drop-in session		13
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wall design• Seating• Landscaping	
Key themes raised		
<hr/>		

¹ Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.

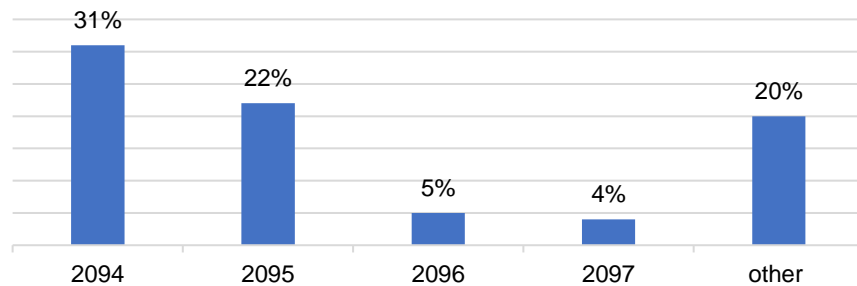
1.2. How we engaged

	Visitors: 2,051	Visits: 2,440	Av. time onsite: 1m35s
Have Your Say			
	Site signs: Yes	Number: 6	
Print media and collateral			
	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 3	Distribution: 20,000 subscribers	
	Council (weekly) e-News: 3	Distribution: 150,000 subscribers	
	Religious and Cultural newsletter: 1	Distribution: 200 subscribers	
	Stakeholder letters/email (next of kin and rights holders): 3	Distribution: 425	
Electronic direct mail (EDM)			
	Drop in: 2	Attendance: 32	
Face-to-face sessions			

1.3. Who responded²

 Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Female Male N/A 	
 Age groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <25 yrs 26-50 yrs 51-75 yrs 76+ yrs N/A 	

² Demographic data was gathered by request only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail.



2. Background

This report outlines the community and stakeholder engagement conducted as part the first stage of the Manly Cemetery columbarium and memorial garden project.

Northern Beaches Council operates two cemeteries, one at Manly and the other at Mona Vale. Manly Cemetery has been closed to sale of new burial sites for many years and waiting lists for new memorial sites is expected to grow in the future.

The proposal is to construct a new columbarium wall and small memorial garden on the eastern side of Manly Cemetery which will provide an additional 600 niches in the wall and memorial garden positions.

A Development Application would be required to be lodged, exhibited and approved before any work proceeds.

3. Engagement objectives

- Provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way (inform).
- Identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values (consult).
- Seek out and facilitate the involvement of those affected by or interested in a project (involve).

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Manly Cemetery columbarium and memorial garden project was conducted over a seven week period, from 9 March to 26 April 2021, and consisted of opportunities and platforms for community and stakeholders to contribute.

The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's [Community Engagement Matrix](#) (2017).

A project page was established on Council's have your say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format.

The project was primarily promoted through our regular email newsletter (EDM) channels, with an email or letter also sent to owners of existing memorial wall niche positions. Those people on the waiting list for new niche positions were also notified where contact details were available.

Feedback was captured through an online comment form embedded onto the have your say project page. An open-field comments box provided community members a space to explain or elaborate on their support, non-support or neutral sentiment as well as any other feedback they wished to contribute.

Email and written comments were also invited.

Two drop-in information sessions were held on site at the existing columbarium on Thursday 11 March and Saturday 17 April 2021. Comments were also accepted from attendees during the sessions.

5. Findings

Based on sentiment analysis of the comments received during the engagement period, 72 percent of responses were considered favourable towards the proposal to build a new columbarium wall and memorial garden.

The feedback acknowledged a growing need for burial options and many responses were from people who currently have relatives in the cemetery or were looking to reserve a niche for the future.

Several comments did not support the proposed changes as they felt that the construction would result in a loss of open space.

Table 1: Feedback that requested specific changes to the proposal.

Theme	What we heard	Council response
Wall height and design	<p>The proposed wall design (1.8m) is too high.</p> <p>The wall should be lower, with curves or articulations or consist of multiple low walls rather than one high, straight wall.</p>	<p>The current design for columbarium walls comprises a series of four walls ranging from 1.8m high at each end and stepping down to 1.5m high at the middle two walls. The walls are bookended by a sandstone column 1.8m high at each end. Lowering the height of the walls will reduce capacity and decrease financial viability of the project. The subject site of the columbarium is heavily constrained by the site boundary to the east, row of graves to the west and north. The layout of the new walls responds to the constraints of the site. Further articulation of the walls would reduce important circulation around the walls.</p>

Materials	<p>Use sandstone as the construction material for the wall rather than granite.</p> <p>Use pavers or crushed sandstone for walkway, not crushed granite to allow better access for prams and wheelchairs.</p>	<p>The columbarium design incorporates a variety of stone finishes including exfoliated and rock faced granites selected to be in keeping with existing columbarium. New columns at each end of the columbarium are constructed from diamond sawn solid sandstone blocks. The design for new paths includes a washed aggregate concrete ramp linking new and existing columbarium's. The path flanking the western side of the columbarium is proposed to be finished in decomposed granite in keeping with paths at the existing columbarium and will be compacted within a border of flush granite setts to ensure good access for persons with disabilities and prams.</p>
Landscaping	<p>Soften the hard edges of the wall with plants and vegetation, possibly native plants. More plantings would also provide more privacy for people visiting the wall.</p>	<p>Noted. There is a potential for additional planting to be incorporated to the design subject to the solution being low maintenance, working in with the constraints of the site (including site boundaries and graves) and not adversely affecting passive surveillance in the area.</p>
Seating	<p>More seating is required.</p>	<p>Noted. A new seat is proposed in the design for new memorial garden, aimed to improve functionality about the existing columbarium. The proposed new columbarium is positioned between the eastern cemetery boundary and existing graves with space sufficient for a path only. There may be potential for additional seats to be provided nearby, subject to further investigations on site.</p>
Location of wall	<p>Could the wall be built on the western side of the cemetery or split the single wall and have</p>	<p>The proposed site for the new columbarium has been selected to minimise impact on movement patterns and paths</p>

	<p>several smaller walls scattered around the cemetery?</p> <p>Alternatively, have memorial plantings rather than a wall.</p>	<p>across the cemetery, off-leash dog areas, sight lines across the cemetery and views across the cemetery from surrounding residents. There is a potential for small pockets of land within the cemetery to be allocated to new gardens or memorial walls subject to further investigation. The intention of the current proposal is to address immediate need for memorials in the Northern Beaches area. Memorial plantings require more space than a wall and would therefore reduce the number of sites available.</p>
Security	Surveillance cameras and lights needed.	<p>No provision for CCTV is proposed at the cemetery. The design of new work should ensure good passive surveillance across the site is maintained. The design for the new columbarium has been broken up into a series of walls that allows for site lines in and around the area.</p>
Additional suggestions	Spaces in niches to hold candles, flowers or messages.	<p>Noted – plaques will be available with options to incorporate a vase either upon or beside the plaque. Although candles are permitted on monuments within candle boxes, candle holders would not be encouraged on the memorial wall due to risk of fire. Limited space is allocated for each niche position so space for messages would also be very limited.</p>

Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Number	Comment/submission
1	The new columbarium wall has a height of between 1.5m and 1.8m and would create a visual barrier between the cemetery and park surrounds. The wall is a plain, elongated, rectangular structure that would detract from the aesthetic landscape amenity of the cemetery, which is also well used for passive recreation. The wall does not appear to blend well with the historical character and local heritage significance of the cemetery.
2	<p>I support this generally, as there is a need to ensure the cemetery is able to accommodate demand into the future.</p> <p>I just have a few comments for your consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It's not clear whether the wall will have niches on both sides - which is certainly a more efficient use of space. A blank wall at the 'back' may attract graffiti. - Consider the need for a path on both sides of the wall. Suggest using gravel for paths, similar to the existing Columbarium. - The wall may act as a visual barrier between the playground and cemetery, negatively impacting its attractive character as a single unified open space. Suggest lowering the wall, and/or making it more permeable, to avoid that. - Wall is a straight line - visually daunting. Suggest curving the line slightly, or using some other articulation of the wall (such as setting some sections back slightly) to break it up a bit, to make it more inviting, and create visual interest. - Consider using a 'warmer' and local provenance stone such as sandstone, rather than granite which has a 'colder' character. - Consider installing niches for flowers on the wall. - Benches will be needed for quiet contemplation. - More detail about landscaping is needed. - There seems to be far too much signage proposed - not only in number, but also in size - totally unnecessary- please reduce to a more appropriate level. <p>Thank you for considering.</p> <p>Just three more comments to add to my main submission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggest keeping materials same as the existing attractive columbarium (i.e. warm coloured stone, not grey granite). - If there are no niches on the east-facing wall, then suggest you landscape (such as a hedge) along the wall to deter graffiti and to create a softer, attractive outlook for playground users. - Consider other locations for the wall - perhaps along the Griffiths St retaining wall (niches facing north) at the western end of the cemetery where there is space for a new adjacent path.
3	<p>I have viewed the plan and artist's sketch of the proposed columbarium at Manly Cemetery and express my approval and appreciation that further places will be available in future for the ashes of Manly residence when deceased.</p> <p>As discussed with Nadine, both my husband, David, and I wish to be placed on the list of people wishing to reserve a niche receptacle as soon as available.</p>
4	I think artist impression needs to be more softer to blend with nature. I do like idea of wall! That's great something is going to be there. I wish similar ll be from park side as well.
5	Hi, I am so pleased to see this new concept plan of the Columbarium at Manly Cemetery. Both my parents were buried on the existing Columbarium last year and I am so pleased you were able to accommodate. Many more of my family are buried

*Personal details have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.

	<p>within this cemetery and I am sure that local people would prefer to keep their family close.</p> <p>The concept design looks great and I would be fully supportive of the development. The inclusion of a fresh new garden and a seat for reflection is excellent. I recently visited the site and felt I would have liked to have sat down and reflected however the area currently does not feel comfortable to simply stand and reflect. The opportunity here is to create an area where people can come and spend time in a peaceful way. I noted also the loud noises from the road which if more trees could be planted along the road side nature strip of internal of the cemetery would be even nicer especially with the new garden.</p> <p>I do hope that this development progresses successfully.</p>
6	<p>I do not think the new columbarium wall is a good idea.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loss of precious green grassy space which is in short supply in Fairlight. we all need somewhere to kick a ball or walk a dog. 2. No impact statement re Weeroona playground. Local school is overcrowded & play area is heavily used especially after school when kids run 'ride bikes through the cemetery to the park. 3. Security concerns. Residents walking along Sprigg St pathway cannot see if anyone lurking behind high walls especially when walking from Griffith St after dark. Children may be lost from sight of parents. 4. Design is out of character with heritage nature of cemetery. Memorial plantings scattered throughout cemetery instead of a wall on eastern side of cemetery would look nicer & is preferable for many family members of the deceased.
7	<p>I fully support the plans for the additional columbarium wall and gardens at the Manly Cemetery.</p> <p>I have a grandmother, aunt and uncle buried in the old cemetery and after a lifetime living in the area I would be grateful to have the opportunity to secure a niche in a new wall. I am sure there would be many in the area who would agree with this new proposal. Thank you Northern Beaches Council... it's a good idea</p>
8	<p>Wonderful idea to improve the Manly Cemetery - long overdue. The planting of Rosemary is most appropriate but I think Native plants would be much more attractive/appropriate and require far less maintenance than Camelias as well as attracting native flora and fauna.</p>
9	<p>Given the problem of declining availability of burial plots in the Manly area, I think the columbarium proposal is very appropriate. The proposed design is very respectful and in combination with the upgraded existing columbarium and garden will prove popular with local residents.</p>
10	<p>I think it is in the wrong place . It should be on the road side - north - to cover the park and green space is a bad idea as it is lovely to have the playground open to the cemetery. It also closes off the open feeling in the cemetery - the road running along the side of the cemetery on the northern side should be considered - the beauty of the heritage cemetery will be compromised / lessened by this big overwhelming wall. How about smaller ones, as mentioned , not in this space</p>
11	<p>The concept is fine but think the design is pretty dreadful- could there be something more in line with the heritage of the Manly Cemetery</p>
12	<p>All this looks great and I fully support any addition of extra niches the council may wish to add to the existing columbarium giving other families the opportunity to have a final resting place for their family members.</p> <p>What I would really like to suggest is the addition of some security cameras on poles with signage and perhaps lighting along the length of the new proposed wall and particularly in the area of the new curved wall columbarium where it is planned to add a new granite plinth. Also maybe it might be a good idea to do a plaque recognising Mr Waters the old stone mason.</p>

13	I think that's fine and tasteful, how ever a slightly curved design, in a vaguely interlocking manner along the same footprint, would be much gentler. It would soften it and evoke a wave like resemblance, appropriate for our area. And prevent either side of the wall from baking in sheer heat of the sun full on to sunrise and sun set.
14	I support the proposal as it will help extend the use of the cemetery particularly to those that existing family buried there and to locals who would like their remains to be kept in the area. Any monies raised as part of this project should not only be used for the upkeep of the existing graves but also to make improvements. Please note I have a number of family members buried at this location.
15	Having many of my relatives in grave sites and others in the existing columbarium I am aware of the shortage of sites left. So I am definitely in favour of new columbarium to cater for the population of the area.
16	To Whom It May Concern, As a local architect and resident, I would like to express my concerns over the design for the columbarium walls proposed for the Manly Cemetery. Whilst I accept that there is demand for more burial and memorial sites, the proposed design, in my opinion, does not respond to the day-to-day use of the cemetery by local residents. The cemetery is a much-loved public open space enjoyed by many, including local community groups and children playing in Weeroona Playground (or as we call it, "the Cemetery Park"). It is not uncommon to see locals wandering through the cemetery on a daily basis, including children making their way to and from Manly West Public School from the eastern side of the cemetery and the playground. The proposed arrangement of the walls will create a barrier obstructing the current free movement in this east-west direction, thus forcing people to move around the perimeter. Furthermore, the walls will create a visual barrier impacting the passive surveillance between the playground and cemetery as well as result in a poor CPTED outcome at night. The insertion of the columbarium walls will adversely affect the porosity along this edge of the park and create a 'hard' edge to the cemetery which is not in keeping with the 'informality' and inviting nature of the place - a quality that makes it unique, interesting, inviting, exploratory for children, and engaging for many. For these reasons I do not support the proposal and hope for a revision to the concept which will more appropriately responds to the day-to-day usage of this special place.
17	We agree with your plan. However, make sure that niches have space for a candle and a small flowers. People remember those loved ones by visiting them and lighting candles.
18	Hi we think this is a great idea! Are you able to tell us how we can reserve a place for our 92 yo Grandmother. [REDACTED]
19	Excellent design and placement. The project is well needed in the District.
20	I believe this is a good idea. Ground space in Manly is obviously none existant. As residents It would be lovely to be able to rest here. Put as many spots as possible. Make a respectful row of walls. I fully support this project.
21	Great idea
22	Need to make sure that CPTED principles are applied, specifically in relation to the new wall being a potential canvas for graffiti damage. Maybe light the pathway (solar charged so no mains power requirements?). Otherwise a great initiative.
23	Rosemary for the flowers is a nice idea! As people collect to put on their loved ones name on the wall! Also native eg bottle brushes would also be a good option for the birds etc! A few more seats! Be nice to encourage picnis and morning teas within the cemetery! () etc! Family gathering for their loved ones and Mother's Day etc. The use of sandstone appropriate as their used to be a sandstone cutter opp! I also am an avid supporter of a black tall iron fence around the whole cemetery! With

	a few entrances off each of the streets off the four blocks! And Closed at night!
24	The proposed extension of the columbarium wall is inappropriate and should not proceed. It is very large, very bulky and ugly. It detracts from the heritage cemetery at Fairlight and devalues the heritage value. There is a much larger space that could be offered at Mona Vale Cemetery to build such a structure. I speak for my family whose great great grandfather and great grandmother are buried there: Reverend Gardiner and Dorothea Notting.
25	An excellent idea and much needed.
26	Sounds wonderful I tried to get a plot but they said it was full so the next best thing is a wall to put ashes in it cheers
27	Hello I think this project has a lot of merit. I was chair of [REDACTED] when the existing columbarium was proposed. As most people prefer Cremation over burial these days I believe the extension that you propose is good future planning. My late mother [REDACTED] had her ashes interned there about 5 years ago. Mum was a Fairlight child and adolescent Having lived in [REDACTED] nearby
28	Mum passed away last week and is to be cremated. Our family name has a long history in Manly and we are hoping to have her ashes down there when the new section is opened in the next year or so. I believe it is something the older community of Manly is crying out for and would be of great benefit to the community.
29	I think this is a wonderful idea, I know many residents who wanted to purchase positions in the existing Columbarium but with the limited space missed out, ourselves included. My son is in the current Columbarium and it means we can visit him any time we wish.
30	To Whom It May Concern, I would like to speak in more detail about the proposal put forward. As an architect, urban designer and local resident, I believe the design is not reflective of the day-to-day use of the Cemetery by local residents as a walkable open space for recreation. Children wander through on the way to school, people walk around exploring the old graves and dog walkers flock to the green corridors through the space. Currently the limited blockages, open edges and good sightlines at the edges (particularly the eastern edge) are a major assets and reason why this place is loved as a casual recreation space. The proposed walls are too high and pose a threat to this use. The proposed 1.8m walls will block sight lines and the flow of people through, making for a poor CPTED outcome at night. The proposed walls will essentially act as a fence, discouraging the idle user. A gateway on the other hand would welcome people into the space, helping to shirk the sense of privatised open space. I appreciate the ongoing use of the land as a cemetery, but would ask Council to be more cognisant of its day-to-day use for the community. One of the beautiful characteristics of the place currently is the blurred edge, allowing generous curtilage around graves to soften boundary between public space and cemetery. For this reason I disagree with the idea to "formalise the edge" of the cemetery in this way. I will be saddened to see this proposal go ahead, but would be happy to discuss alternatives if possible.
31	I wish to provide positive feedback in favour of the proposed columbarium at Manly cemetery. I have been a long term resident of Manly since 1951 and the proposal that my ashes remain in Manly appeals to me. The cemetery is a place of reflection and construction of the columbarium will provide my family (who also reside in Manly) this opportunity. I do notice children playing amongst the graves and headstones. Whilst this dangerous and there have been incidences when headstones have collapse injuring and in several incidences killing children. Parents in the adjacent 'playground' should be encouraged to show respect but perhaps this is of no concern to those parents whose only concern is the unrestrained

	freedom and entertainment of their 'kiddies'. God help the new generation!! Remove the playground if there is no child constraint, there are plenty of other playgrounds for their children to enjoy.
32	Myself and my partner have two niches paid for in the existing columbarium. We are both happy with this proposal and feel it would add to the peaceful atmosphere of the existing facility.
33	Please don't remove the new seat that replaced the old seat next to the Columbarium my mum goes every second day to visit my Dad and at 86 needs to use the seat. Also please don't cut down any trees as the rosellas and kookaburras live there!
34	I think this is a great idea for extra space. I fully support the proposal and the plans as shown and described. The proposed additions fit in well with the current columbarium and are sympathetic with the surroundings. I believe that the new additions will be fully utilised and something appreciated by the community. The effort and work that has gone into the plans is a credit to the Council officer concerned
35	I was intending going to the meeting to find out more on this proposed columbarium and memorial garden proposed change at Manly Cemetery. It is raining somewhat and I cannot drive any more and I would need to travel a couple of miles from my home in Raglan Street to the cemetery. I rang the contact number to get to [REDACTED] but spoke to Debbie who tried to get him unsuccessfully but will speak to him as soon as she can. She said not to go in the rough weather meeting and she will get [REDACTED] to contact me. This will be well worth speaking to him.
36	We acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 10 March 2021 re New Columbarium at Manly Cemetery. The concept is brilliant and should proceed for all in the Future. The existing Columbarium needs some attention, maybe a small Garden within the Arched complex would be appropriate. Re On site drop in Saturday 20 March. 8.30am - visited site - no one in site. 9.00am - visited site - no one in site. Not a good start People.
37	Wonderful idea. Thank you for consulting myself, as someone whose father's ashes are in one of the existing niches. It is appreciated.
38	My parents' ashes are in the current Columbarium. Just wondering will this existing Columbarium remain, or will it be replaced by the new one? If so, will I be informed of the new location for my parents' ashes?
39	I think the concept of the new columbarium wall is great except I don't think adding a plinth to the existing columbarium area with a Christian Psalm engraved on it is appropriate in this day and age. There is now such a diversity of religions in our community and large segments of the community are not Christian (or follow any religion) but still may want their remains interned in the columbarium wall. I don't think selecting a particular religion to be represented is the right thing to do. Both of my parents, [REDACTED] are interned in the existing columbarium and I find the area a very pleasant space to come and reflect on my parent's lives. I also think that providing seating for people visiting the columbarium would be an improvement.
40	I agree with the idea of the proposal but I strongly object to the height of the wall. The cemetery is a space which is widely used by the locals and many young families. Children often run around and a large wall blocking the eye line and views around the space would be extremely impractical. I live in an apartment on the edge of the cemetery and it is my back garden, I walk our dog in the space 6 times a day, it is beautiful to look around and see grass from one side to the other, a high wall would ruin the aesthetics of the space. To ensure you gain the amount of niches, there are many locations where smaller columbariums could be installed, especially along the edges by Harland Road and Griffiths.

41	Please note that crushed Granite means a most effective block on anybody in a wheelchair being able to look at the wall closely.
42	<p>Increase in impervious surfaces will effect this actively daily used thoroughfare and close off a wide open space allowing for kids, dogs, adults to have distance and enjoy some of the only green grass area that so beautifully captures the graveyard itself, not overcrowded.</p> <p>This will disrupt what is already perfect, if you could extend the old columbarium that would be much smarter use of space as no one uses that grass area / needs that grassy area.</p> <p>My dogs and I come here everyday and use that long strip as a wide open grassy pathway which makes the whole park much more enjoyable, I love how it is and I think change is necessary but this doesn't seem necessary. Thankyou</p>
43	It's a good idea. How much is an individual niche to purchase? How much is a plaque to order on top of niche price? Regards
44	Is this necessary? This cemetery is currently used as almost a parkland & this proposed wall will encroach on the space. It needs to be more regularly maintained as it is rather than adding to it.
45	This project will give a sorely needed "lift" to the Cemetery. I commend it to you as worthy project vital to the community.
46	I think it is a great plan while I don't intend to occupy one of the slots for some time. For people who have ashes of loved ones to be stored it is a great solution. It should be priced to encourage uptake. The continuity of places of remembrance will disappear or graveyards will lose there relevance. This concept helps to extend the usefulness and relevance of cemeteries as a focal point. Penguin in Tasmania have revitalise its scenic cemetery as a meeting place. Good luck with plan
47	I think it is a necessary and important development. It looks in keeping with the cemetery. I cannot comment on the design but I certainly welcome the construction.
48	The existing commemorative wall is pretty dull, but at least it is curved and in a tree shaded area so has some visual interest. The proposed wall is dull, uninspired and extremely prosaic. It appears to be completely lacking in imagination and to lack visual interest. Nor does it appear to have any tree cover. I visit the cemetery often to walk my dog and the proposed location is hard up against a sloping bank. In order to fit 600 plaques as proposed, half will be on the reverse side which appears to run hard into the grass slope. If the wall runs north / south the bank will be shaded and probably ungrassed. This will not be an attractive feature. This is a very poor, uninspired design, it looks cheap and drab.
49	I think it will be great and hope it goes ahead.
50	Seems like a good idea
51	Good idea. There needs to be some repair/care shown to the older areas of the site as well. Some sites are in bad repair and need to be restored.
52	Great idea, please do more of the same.....
53	1.8 metres is too high. We use the park adjacent approximately 4 times per week and this would block our view and make the play area feel closed off. Please consider building the columbarium lower, the height of a front fence (1.2 metres) so it does not reduce the enjoyment of playground users and walkers. A more appropriate area for a 1.8 metre height would be the school end of the cemetery where there is currently no fence and a busy road. Plaques could also be put along the fence on Griffiths Street.
54	<p>The Manly Cemetery is a beautiful and quiet place where I sit and reflect on those who formed the area over the years. Please don't add or alter its organic beauty over time that has added to its character. Leave it alone. We are meant to be inclusive so leaning to one religion is inappropriate. Council is always talking about being inclusive and embrace diversity. This clearly does not.</p> <p>This row of concrete impacts the statues that are true art and takes away the natural</p>

	feel of the area. Please leave this area alone and use money to make better what is already there by restoring the existing graves and headstones which need attention. This proposal will take away the natural flow and views from the playground to the rest of the cemetery.
55	<p>The Manly Cemetery is a lovely quiet place to sit and reflect. Please don't pursue any further development and structures and leave as it is. Also, having religious words from the bible on plinths is not inclusive and the Council is always talking about being inclusive.</p> <p>The artists impression shows a massive row of boxes which look like a jail. This is not in keeping with the natural area. Please leave this area alone or spend the money restoring the existing graves and headstones which need attention. The proposal will block the natural flow and views from the playground to the rest of the cemetery.</p>
56	The overall proposed concept is a welcome addition to the cemetery, however, I believe the height of some of the columns is a problem by cutting off and separating the areas. Not only will the tall columns (anything above 1.5m) create a visual disconnection between the areas, but I also think that it is a safety issue. There is a path adjacent to the area that is not well lit, and used at all hours of the day, including nights. It would make sense to keep the maximum height at 1.5m.
57	I think it's a good idea. I think you may find that demand is high and that 600 niches will not be enough.
58	Much needed local facility. Need to purchase as soon as available
59	Please go ahead with the new columbarium. I visit the existing one on a regular basis to leave a flower for my Mother. My husband and I would like to buy a niche for ourselves. My only concern with the present design is that it does not have the feeling of privacy I feel when I visit my Mothers plaque. This is most likely because it is in a semi circle. I can appreciate a long wall would allow for more niches. I always feel peaceful, private when I visit the columbarium.
60	I think the new design doesn't look very promising. It would be a shame to have this new columbarium block the open view towards the playground. I know of a lot of parents also who visit the playground with various children - some playing at the park, others running around the cemetery. The columbarium would make it tricky to see.
61	No objections. This is a good idea, needed by the community and using an existing cemetery for the purpose it was built for, allowing more locals to remember their loved ones without having to travel long distances.
62	This is a great idea, it will be good for the local area and will also complement the surrounds, security cameras may also be a good idea to keep the scumbags out.
63	I like the proposal. It will offer the opportunity for family members to be near others already buried at the cemetery. How do you join the waiting list for a niche in the wall?
64	I am interested and hope to meet with representative 20/3. Born Manly as was my parents. Grandparents/great grandparents buried in Manly Cemetery. Am interested in costs and if able to prebuilt and select position.
65	<p>Hi, I think it's great that we're trying to make Manly Cemetery available to the community in the future.</p> <p>The artist's impression of the columbarium wall is quite stark. The thing I love about this cemetery is it's accessibility, that it's part of the walk to school for many kids, that we can read about people who have gone before us and shared this place with us. The rambling & varied headstones, their individuality, their connection with the earth, plants, landscape are all aspects that create a sense of belonging & familiarity.</p> <p>When I look at the straight, monotone wall, in effect cutting the playground off from the rest of the cemetery it doesn't feel familiar, cared for or accessible.</p> <p>Many more plants would help, less height, more individuality for each individual remembered. This is like a horrific war memorial where we aren't inclined to celebrate life but to mourn it's unfair loss. I don't think a living community cemetery should have</p>

	that feel. I think we can do better, soften it, make it part of a place where humans walk & children aren't afraid to intrude upon.
66	Confirming the walls are only for cremated ashes and their is no area for burial sites. Paving would be preferable to crushed granite stones for ease of access for prams, wheelchairs and accessible walking frames, also easier for sweeping leaves and debris.
67	Completely opposed, this is like high rise development of the cemetery. Next, high rise funeral boxes all around the site. Completely out of keeping with the heritage of the cemetery. Council needs to commit to more sites instead of overdeveloping the beaches And neglecting to provide any future required infrastructure.
68	What a great idea has worked well in other heritage areas in Sydney
69	Provision of this style of memorial space is more than welcome. The artists impression provided is visually pleasing. A guide to proposed costs for niches would be appreciated.
70	<p>Hi, Being a local to Fairlight, and use the cemetery to get together with friends and dogs daily, the cemetery is a beautiful place to feel that you are in a serene environment, which we spend many an hour here to get together as a community. I am all for having a new columbarium, as many a friend would like to be located there once they have passed. Unfortunately, the artist impression does nothing to add to the appeal and serenity of the area, and nor does it aesthetically match the area and current columbarium, which is the format that should be followed, elegant, peaceful, and a place to reflect. Not the artist impression of the prison looking 'in your face' wall that cuts the view from the playground to the cemetery in half. If this is the decision to have four walls in a row, then I would prefer the council spend their money on other more urgent community needs, as this would destroy the aesthetics of the cemetery, and it is certainly not keeping in line with the heritage of how the cemetery looks. Also, you mention a garden, where are the trees? The cemetery needs more trees, given the amount of trees that have been lopped over the years.</p> <p>Please reconsider your artist's impression, I am concerned that once the 600 places are filled, are you going to build another wall. Come on Council, get someone that can provide an artist's impression of the columbarium that fits in with the aesthetics of the cemetery and a place the locals can enjoy from one end of the cemetery to the other in this life. Please seriously consider the locals' opinions, as this is a very special place for all of us who have been coming here for many years.</p>
71	<p>Manly Cemetery currently serves as a blessed hub for the local community, a treasured place for all stages of the life cycle. During the pandemic, especially, it allowed sanity breaks for dogs, children, parents, teenagers.... and all were welcome. Whether you (and your dog?) wandered alone or made new friends the Cemetery offered a peaceful space to reflect, breathe and remember the important things in life. One of its great features is the spacious view - from Hill street to the playground.....and whilst our streets are by no means as crowded many places, many of us are hemmed in by red brick on either side.</p> <p>The proposed new columbarium wall is like a Prison Wall. In no way does it reflect the interest or elegance of the present columbarium (could that not be repeated somewhere else?) and in addition it blocks the wonderful space. Truly, I know many people would like to feel they were able to end up in this haven, but who wants incarceration in a concrete guard tower?</p> <p>Only 600 spaces are allowed for, so what happens when these are all 'booked'? More Prison Walls? I would totally agree that the cemetery, and us who love it and use it, would benefit from more places for memorial plaques. These could be on suitable trees - which the cemetery desperately needs more of (please, not the ill-fated jacarandas!)- or in the form of a rock garden in which they were embedded. Surely a</p>

	functional plan could be developed that is both imaginative and serves the expanding community?
72	Can you provide a render of how it would look from the playground area?
73	Looks well planned and much needed. Please retain the life that is currently such an amazing characteristic of Manly cemetery. It is alive with local people as a place to meet, make new friends and enjoy the company and antics of our dog companions. Who would have thought that a cemetery could be so alive and a joyous place to be! A remarkable way to encompass both the living and the dead and to foster a greater understanding of life and death and remembrance in those that visit this amazing space.
74	Fully support this. I'm at the cemetery almost every afternoon with my dog and we often remark what an awesome final resting place it is. Couple of things though - in the existing slots there's nowhere for relatives to leave little mementoes and they end up on the ground. Would be nice if each slot had a space for that. Also need some seating. And also, confirmation that the with this development that cemetery will remain off leash for dogs. It's a space well loved and well used by many of us.
75	we don't have enough open green spaces already. leave the grass and open area alone. no need to build more brick and concrete here. also the tree will be impacted and most probably removed. NO TO THIS ITS NOT NEEDED
76	Great idea. Maybe more spaces should be added so there's plenty for more locals to be accommodated. Saves rethinking further down the track. When can we buy a niche?

Appendix 2 Comments collected at drop-in sessions

Number	Comment
1	This is a green space which we don't have enough of. Suggest an alternative heritage impact study finding alternative options.
2	Yes I support. Go for it.
3	Care for trees is key.
4	Support columbarium. Needed for area.
5	Needed
6	Make the shape rounded, not straight wall. Have bushes around it. Have it similar to existing columbarium. For consistency and privacy when viewing loved ones burial plot.
7	Looks great and needed in area.
8	Like it – playground close by, ample parking, local cemetery, natural drainage and place to sit on the grass.
9	Im interested in the garden part of the existing columbarium.
10	Fabulous idea. Place is full.
11	Good idea. I would certainly like to be here.
12	I think this is well designed for the space available. It will complement the original columbarium.
13	Well deserved – needed in the community

Document administration	
Version	2.0
Date	27 May 2021
Status	Final