

# Review of the Cemeteries and Crematoria Code of Practice

## Information Sheet

Auckland Council is reviewing the [Arataki Tikanga mo ngā Wāhi Tapu me ngā Whare Tahu Tupāpaku 2014 / Cemeteries and Crematoria Code of Practice 2014](#).

### About the Code review

We are reviewing the Cemeteries and Crematoria Code of Practice (the Code) to determine how it should be improved.

This review builds upon the [findings](#) of the 2019 review of the [Ture ā-Rohe mo ngā Wāhi Tapu me ngā Whare Tahu Tupāpaku 2014 / Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw 2014](#), which found that the Code is outdated.

### We want to hear from you

We are seeking **your input** on the Code, specifically about:

- issues you or your community experience relating to council cemeteries and crematoria
- how the Code could be improved.

You can give your input by 17 February 2023:

- at an in-person hui, or an online hui on MS Teams (to arrange, contact us at the email address below)
- via the online form [here](#) or
- by email at [cemeteriescodeofpractice@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:cemeteriescodeofpractice@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

### Next steps

We will develop improvements to the Code by:

- using your input
- collaborating with interested stakeholders.

Fill out this [form](#) by 17 February 2023 to tell us if you are interested in developing improvements to the Code.

We will seek your feedback on a draft of the improvements, before council makes a final decision.

### More information

Please contact us at [cemeteriescodeofpractice@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:cemeteriescodeofpractice@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

### What the Code does

The Code sets rules about activities at council cemeteries and crematoria, including:

- interment
- cremation
- disinterment
- urupā at council cemeteries
- vaults, mausolea, monuments and adornments
- ground maintenance
- record-keeping.

The Code seeks to minimise public safety risks, distress, nuisance, damage to property and heritage, and interference with ground maintenance and operational activities.

### What the Code does not do

The Code does not regulate matters outside of council cemeteries and crematoria, including:

- private cemeteries / urupā
- ash scattering in public places.



## Mana whenua and mataawaka 2019 Bylaw review feedback

This page summarises feedback provided during the 2019 Bylaw review by mana whenua and mataawaka, for your interest.

Please note that some matters raised are out of scope to the Code review, for example ash scattering outside of council cemeteries.

### Mana whenua feedback

#### Memorials and adornments

- Limit plot sizes and headstones to efficiently use cemetery land
- Use of plastic flowers and other plastic adornments at cemeteries results in waste entering landfills and waterways.

#### Recognition of urupā and Wāhi Tapu Māori Areas

- Provide greater recognition of historic urupā at some council cemeteries (located on mana whenua land historically used as urupā)
- Use term “urupā” instead of “Wāhi Tapu Māori areas” for Māori burial areas within a cemetery (under tikanga Māori the entire cemetery is wāhi tapu).

#### Ash scattering

- Ash scattering (particularly in waterways) is contrary to tikanga Māori
- Establish that ash scattering is inappropriate in waterways, food cultivation areas and other wāhi tapu
- Notify funeral directors to enable them to advise their clients.

#### Changes in burial practice

- Increasingly common to be buried in urupā because of the high cost of burial at council cemeteries (for whānau who choose burial).

#### Cemetery land allocation

- Insufficient land has been allocated for cemeteries considering predicted regional population growth and housing intensification
- Pressure on mana whenua urupā may require council support to provide land for future burials (including new land and urupā space within existing council cemeteries).

## Mataawaka feedback

### Council services

- Cemetery grounds are generally well-maintained and pleasant
- Attendance of kuia and kaumatua at tangihanga is impacted by walking distances from carparks (particularly at Manukau and Mangere), especially where there are large crowds or more than one nehu at a time
- Whānau risk debt due to cost of council services
- Add more rubbish bins at council cemeteries.

### Māori-managed urupā owned by Auckland Council

- Whānau feel spiritually unsupported at tangihanga from lack of tikanga and kawa at council cemeteries (for example, if there is no water to wash hands when leaving a cemetery)
- Whānau are not given enough time to grieve at council cemeteries when another whānau pani is waiting
- Develop Māori-managed urupā that uphold tikanga and kawa vital for Te Ao Māori.