

The Hon Steve Kamper MP

Minister for Small Business
Minister for Lands and Property
Minister for Multiculturalism
Minister for Sport

Our ref: MINS8134
Your ref: R24/0045

Councillor Darriea Turley AM
President, Local Government NSW
Level 8
28 Margaret Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Via email: damian.thomas@lgnsw.org.au

Dear Councillor Turley

Thank you for your correspondence about the expansion of the interment services levy.

I was disappointed to hear of your opposition to this levy which we believe is fair, efficient, and much needed to support a strong proactive regulator. I am sure you would agree with the Government's aim that all people in NSW should have access to sustainable and affordable burial and cremation services that are respectful of culture and faith, and which are provided in a compassionate, consistent, transparent, and accountable way. The levy will ensure that this aim is realised and actioned across the whole sector for the benefit of the community.

After many years of inaction in this area, the cemeteries and crematoria sector has been left largely to self-regulate despite the existence of the regulator and the detailed objectives contained within the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act (2013)*. The critical shortage of burial supply in metropolitan areas, long term issues with perpetual maintenance, and consistent poor practices – including by council operators – are just some of the major issues that may have been prevented had the regulator been properly resourced.

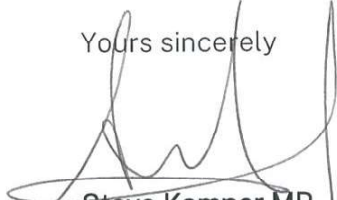
Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW (CCNSW) will enforce clearer and more transparent standards across all operators, be they private, Crown, church, and local government. CCNSW's work also includes providing education and guidance that will benefit all operators.

CCNSW is now consulting on the expansion of the levy. In person workshops are being held across NSW as well as online sessions. I am pleased that many councils are engaging in this process and sharing their feedback. Once consultation closes on 9 May 2024 the Government will consider all the issues raised and make a final decision on the levy design.

I thank local councils across NSW for all they do to support families at a critical time in their lives. I look forward to continuing to work with you and councils on this journey as we shape the future of interment services to better serve the people of NSW.

Should you have any questions, Jennifer Hickey, Chief Executive, CCNSW can be contacted on 0436 522 457 or jennifer.hickey@cemeteries.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Steve Kamper MP
Minister for Small Business
Minister for Lands and Property
Minister for Multiculturalism
Minister for Sport

