

**CEMETERIES ACT 1986**

CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON

**CEMETERY LOCAL LAW 2011**  
CONSOLIDATED  
*Cemeteries Amendment Local Law 2020*

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**CEMETERIES ACT 1986**

CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON

**CEMETERY LOCAL LAW 2011**

Under the powers conferred by section 55 of the *Cemeteries Act 1986*, subdivision 2 of Division 2 of Part 3 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and under all other powers enabling it, the Council of the City of Greater Geraldton resolved on the 12 October 2011 to make the following local law.

**PART 1—PRELIMINARY****1.1 Citation**

This local law may be cited as the *City of Greater Geraldton Cemetery Local Law 2011*.

**1.2 Commencement**

This local law comes into operation 14 days after the date on which it is published in the *Government Gazette*.

**1.3 Application**

This local law applies to the Mullewa Public Cemetery (Reserve No. 3334 and Reserve No. 25429) in the district.

**1.4 Repeal**

The *Mullewa Public Cemetery (Reserve No. 3334 and Reserve No. 25429) By-law* as published in the *Government Gazette* of 23 September 1938 and as amended and published in the *Government Gazette* 30 January 1981 and 26 June 1981 is repealed.

**1.5 Interpretation**

In this local law unless the context otherwise requires—

**Act** means the *Cemeteries Act 1986*;

**administrator** includes executor and any person who, by law or practice, has the right to apply for administration, and any person having the lawful custody of the body of a deceased person;

**ashes** means so much of the remains of a dead body after the due processes of cremation as may be contained in a standard sized cremation urn;

**authorised officer** means an employee appointed by the local government for the purposes of performing any function or exercising any power conferred upon an authorised officer by this local law;

**burial** has the same meaning as is given in the Act;

**cemetery** means the Mullewa Public Cemetery;

**CEO** means the Chief Executive Officer of the local government; **crypt** has the same meaning as vault;

**dead body** has the same meaning as that expression in the Act; **district** means the district of the City of Greater Geraldton;

**funeral** includes the burial and cremation of a dead body and all associated processions and ceremonials but does not include so much of a ceremonial that is solely a religious rite;

**funeral director** means a person holding a current funeral director's licence;

**grave** means a grave situated in a cemetery in respect of which a grant has been made under and in accordance with the Act and this local law;

**guide dog** has the same meaning as is given to that expression in the *Dog Act 1976*;

**local government** means the City of Greater Geraldton;

**mausoleum** means a building or construction wholly above or partially above and below ground level, so constructed as to allow the deposition of dead bodies into a compartment in the wall or floor and being sealed from view;

**memorial** has the same meaning as is given in the Act;

***military grave*** means a grave eligible for commemoration by the Office of Australian War Graves;

***monumental mason*** means a person holding a current monumental mason's licence;

***personal representative*** means the administrator or executor of an estate of a deceased person;

***set fee*** refers to fees and charges set by a resolution of the local government and published in the *Government Gazette*, under section 53 of the Act;

***single funeral permit*** means a permit issued by the local government under section 20 or 21 of the Act which entitles the holder to conduct at the cemetery a funeral of a person named in the permit; and

***vault*** means a below ground lined grave with one or more sealed compartments constructed to specifications approved from time to time by the local government.

## PART 2—ADMINISTRATION

### 2.1 Powers and functions of Chief Executive Officer

Subject to any directions given by the local government, the CEO shall exercise all the powers and functions of the local government in respect of the cemetery.

## PART 3—APPLICATION FOR FUNERALS

### 3.1 Application for burial

(1) A person may apply for approval to bury a dead body in the cemetery in the form determined by the local government from time to time.

(2) An application under subclause (1) is to be accompanied by the set fee.

### 3.2 Applications to be accompanied by certificates etc

All applications referred to in clause 3.1 shall be accompanied by either a medical certificate of death or a Coroner's order of burial, and a certificate issued under clause 3.3, in respect of the body.

### 3.3 Certificate of identification

(1) After a dead body is placed in a coffin and prior to a dead body being removed to the cemetery, a person who personally knew the deceased shall identify the dead body and shall complete a certificate of identification in the form determined by the local government from time to time, unless—

(a) in the opinion of the funeral director, the dead body is not in a fit state to be viewed; or

(b) after reasonable effort the funeral director is unable to arrange for a person to identify the dead body.

(2) Where—

(a) in the opinion of the funeral director, the dead body is not in a fit state to be viewed; or

(b) after reasonable effort the funeral director is unable to arrange for a person to identify the dead body

then the funeral director shall complete a certificate in the form determined by the local government from time to time.

### 3.4 Minimum notice required

All bookings to hold a funeral shall be made with the local government at least 24 hours prior to the time proposed for burial on the application, otherwise an extra charge may be made.

## PART 4—FUNERAL DIRECTORS

### 4.1 Funeral director's licence expiry

A funeral director's licence shall expire on 30 June in each year.

### 4.2 Single funeral permits

Every application for a single funeral permit made under section 20 or 21 of the Act shall include coffin specifications and details of the vehicle transporting the dead body to the gravesite.

### 4.3 Application refusal

The local government may refuse an application for a single funeral permit if, in the opinion of the local government, either the coffin specifications or the details of the vehicle transporting the dead body to the gravesite are not structurally sound or are otherwise inadequate or inappropriate, or on any other grounds.

## PART 5—FUNERALS

### *Division 1—General*

### 5.1 Requirements for funerals and coffins

A person shall not bring a dead body into the cemetery unless—

(a) the local government has approved an application for the burial of that dead body in accordance with Part 3 of this local law;

- (b) it is enclosed in a coffin which in the opinion of the local government is structurally sound and bears the name of the deceased person indelibly inscribed in legible characters on a plate on the coffin's lid; and
- (c) under the plate referred to in paragraph (b) there is a substantive lead strip bearing the surname of the deceased person stamped in legible characters, each character being not less than 10 millimetres in height.

### **5.2 Funeral processions**

The time fixed by the local government for any burial shall be the time at which the funeral procession is to arrive at the cemetery gates, and if not punctually observed, then the applicant who applied to hold the funeral under clause 3.1 shall pay the set fee for being late.

### **5.3 Vehicle entry restricted**

- (1) Subject to subclause (2), every funeral procession shall enter by the principal entrance, and no vehicle except the hearse and official mourning coaches shall be permitted to enter the cemetery.
- (2) This clause shall not apply to persons using wheelchairs or motorised wheelchairs.

### **5.4 Vehicle access and speed limitations**

- (1) A person shall—
  - (a) drive a vehicle on the access way, constructed roadway or vehicular pathway or other area designated for the use of vehicles within the cemetery; and
  - (b) not exceed the speed limit of 25 kilometres per hour as indicated by signs within the cemetery; and
  - (c) park the vehicle in a designated area indicated by a sign or structure or device that guides and directs the vehicle.
- (2) A person who contravenes subclause (1) shall be ordered to leave the cemetery in accordance with clause 8.8.

### **5.5 Conduct of funeral by local government**

When conducting a funeral under section 22 of the Act the local government may—

- (a) require a written request for it to conduct a funeral to be lodged with it;
- (b) in its absolute discretion, charge any person requesting it to conduct a funeral the set fee for the conduct of that funeral by it;
- (c) where no fee or a reduced fee has been charged by it for the conduct of the funeral, determine the manner in which the funeral shall be conducted;
- (d) specify an area in a cemetery where the dead body is to be buried or the ashes placed;
- (e) specify an area in the cemetery where the dead body is to be buried or the ashes placed;
- (f) conduct the funeral notwithstanding the failure of a person to make any application or to obtain any consent required under this local law;
- (g) do or require anything which it considers is necessary or convenient for the conduct of a funeral by the local government.

### *Division 2—Placement of ashes*

#### **5.6 Placement of ashes**

(1) The personal representative of a deceased person whose body has been cremated may apply, in an application under clause 3.1 or otherwise, for permission to dispose of the ashes in the cemetery, and upon payment of the set fee the local government may grant permission for the ashes to be disposed of by one of the following methods—

- Niche Wall
- Memorial Wall
- Garden of Remembrance
- Ground Niche
- Memorial Rose, Tree or Shrub
- Family Shrub
- Memorial Desk
- Granite Seat
- Family Grave
- Book of Remembrance
- Scattering to the Winds
- Memorial Gardens

Other memorials approved by the local government.

- (2) Subject to subclauses (3) and (4), a person shall not place the ashes of a deceased person in the cemetery.
- (3) An authorised officer may place the ashes of a deceased person in a cemetery in accordance with the local government approval provided that—

- (a) the person requesting the placement of the ashes has the permission of the local government; and
  - (b) the ashes are placed within an area set aside for that purpose by the local government.
- (4) An authorised officer may place the ashes of a deceased person within a grave in accordance with the local government approval, provided the person requesting the placement of the ashes has the written permission of the local government and the approval of the holder of the right of burial of the grave.

## **PART 6—BURIALS**

### **6.1 Depth of graves**

- (1) A person shall not bury a coffin within the cemetery so that the distance from the top of the coffin to the original surface of the ground is—
- (a) not less than 750 millimetres, unless that person has the permission of an authorised officer; or
  - (b) in any circumstances less than 600 millimetres.
- (2) The permission of the authorised officer in subclause (1)(a) will only be granted where in the opinion of the authorised officer exceptional circumstances require granting of that permission.

### **6.2 Mausoleum etc**

- (1) A person other than the local government shall not construct a brick grave, crypt, vault or mausoleum within the cemetery.
- (2) A person may request the local government to construct a vault or mausoleum within the cemetery which vault or mausoleum shall at all times remain the property of the local government.
- (3) An application under subclause (2) shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by payment of the set fee.
- (4) A person shall not place a dead body in a mausoleum except—
- (a) in a closed coffin; and
  - (b) in a soundly constructed chamber; and
  - (c) in accordance with subclause (5).
- (5) The number of burials in a chamber must not exceed the number for which the chamber was designed.

## **PART 7—MEMORIALS AND OTHER WORK**

### *Division 1—General*

#### **7.1 Application for monumental work**

The local government may require the written consent of the holder of the right of burial of the grave to accompany an application under section 30 of the Act.

#### **7.2 Placement of monumental work**

Every memorial shall be placed on proper and substantial foundations.

#### **7.3 Removal of rubbish**

All refuse, rubbish or surplus material remaining after memorial works are completed under a permit issued under section 30 of the Act shall be immediately removed from the cemetery by the person carrying out the same.

#### **7.4 Operation of work**

All material required in the erection and completion of any work shall, as far as possible, be prepared before being taken to the cemetery, and all materials required shall be admitted at such entrance as the CEO or an authorised officer shall direct.

#### **7.5 Removal of sand, soil or loam**

No sand, earth or other material shall be taken from any part of the cemetery for use in the erection of any memorial or work except with the written approval of the local government.

#### **7.6 Hours of work**

Persons shall not be permitted to carry out memorial or other work on graves within the cemetery other than during the hours of 8.00 am and 6.00 pm on weekdays, and 8.00 am and noon on Saturdays, without the written permission of the local government.

#### **7.7 Unfinished work**

Should any work by masons or others be not completed before 6.00 pm on weekdays and noon on Saturdays, they shall be required to leave the work in a neat and safe condition to the satisfaction of the CEO or an authorised officer.

#### **7.8 Use of wood**

No wooden fence, railing, cross or other wooden erection shall be allowed on or around any grave, other than as a temporary marker and with the prior approval of the local government.

### **7.9 Plants and trees**

No trees or shrubs shall be planted on any grave or within the cemetery except such as shall be approved by the CEO.

### **7.10 Supervision**

All workers, whether employed by the local government or by any other person, shall at all times whilst within the boundaries of the cemetery be subject to the supervision of the CEO or an authorised officer, and shall obey such directions as the CEO or an authorised officer may give.

### **7.11 Australian War Graves**

Notwithstanding anything in this local law to the contrary, the Office of Australian War Graves—

- (a) may place a memorial on a military grave; and
- (b) is not required to pay the set fee for any memorial that is placed upon a military grave.

### **7.12 Placing of glass domes and vases**

A person shall not place glass domes, vases or other grave ornaments—

- (a) outside the perimeter of a grave in the cemetery as defined in the plans kept and maintained under section 40(2) of the Act; or
- (b) on the lawn in an area set aside by the local government as a lawn or a memorial plaque section.

#### *Division 2—Lawn section*

### **7.13 Specification of monuments**

(1) All monuments in the lawn section of a cemetery shall—

- (a) be made of natural stone; and
- (b) be placed upon a base of natural stone; and
- (c) comply with the following specifications—
  - (i) the overall height of the monument above the original surface of the grave shall not exceed 1.05 metres;
  - (ii) the height of the base of the monument above the original surface of the grave shall not be less than 150 millimetres nor more than 450 millimetres;
  - (iii) the width of the base of the monument shall not exceed 1.2 metres;
  - (iv) the depth of the base of the monument shall not exceed 300 millimetres; and
- (d) have foundations extending to the bottom of the grave unless concrete beam foundations are provided by the local government.

(2) An admiralty bronze memorial plaque may be attached to a monument erected or being erected in the lawn section of the cemetery.

(3) A person shall not display any trade names or marks upon any monument erected within the lawn section of the cemetery.

### **7.14 Headstones**

In the lawn section of the cemetery, that part of a headstone above its base shall not extend horizontally beyond that base.

#### *Division 3—Memorial plaque section*

### **7.15 Requirements of a memorial plaque**

(1) All memorial plaques placed in a memorial plaque section of the cemetery shall—

- (a) be made of admiralty bronze or any other material approved by the local government; and
- (b) not be less than the dimensions 380 millimetres x 280 millimetres, nor more than 560 millimetres x 305 millimetres.

(2) All memorial plaques made of admiralty bronze shall—

- (a) not exceed 20 millimetres in thickness; and
- (b) be placed upon a base mounting approved by the local government.

(3) All memorial plaques made of stone shall—

- (a) not exceed 50 millimetres in thickness placed upon a base mounting approved by the local government; or
- (b) not be less than 100 millimetres in thickness if it is not to be placed upon a base mounting.

#### *Division 4—Licensing of monumental masons*

**7.16 Monumental mason's licence**

- (1) The local government may upon receipt of an application in writing by any person and upon payment of the set fee issue to the applicant a monumental mason's licence.
- (2) A licence issued under subclause (1) authorises the holder to carry out monumental works within the cemetery subject to the provisions of this local law and such conditions as the local government shall specify upon the issue of that licence.

**7.17 Expiry date, non-transferability**

A monumental mason's licence—

- (a) shall, subject to clause 7.20, be valid from the date specified until the next following 30 June; and
- (b) is not transferable.

**7.18 Carrying out monumental work**

A person shall not carry out monumental work within the cemetery unless that person—

- (a) is the holder of a current monumental mason's licence issued pursuant to clause 7.16 or does so as the employee of a person who holds such a licence; or
- (b) is authorised by the local government to do so.

**7.19 Responsibilities of the holder of a monumental mason's licence**

The holder of a monumental mason's licence shall be responsible for the compliance by every person purporting to be authorised to carry out monumental works within the cemetery, pursuant to that licence with all the requirements and conditions of the licence, this local law, the Act and any other written law which may affect the carrying out of monumental works.

**7.20 Cancellation of a monumental mason's licence**

- (1) The local government may by notice in writing to the holder of a monumental mason's licence terminate the licence on any of the following grounds—
  - (a) that the holder of the licence has committed a breach of the requirements and conditions of the licence, this local law, the Act or any other written law which may affect the carrying out of monumental works;
  - (b) that, in the opinion of the local government, the conduct of the holder of the licence or any person in the employ of that holder in carrying out or attempting to carry out any works within the cemetery, is inappropriate or unbecoming; or
  - (c) that the holder of the licence has purported to transfer the licence issued to that holder.
- (2) Upon the termination of a monumental mason's licence under this section no part of any fee paid for the issue of that licence is refundable by the local government.

**PART 8—GENERAL****8.1 Assistance Animals**

A person shall not bring an animal into or permit an animal to enter or remain in the cemetery, other than an 'assistance animal' as defined in section 9(2) of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)* or with the approval of the CEO or an authorised officer.

(clause 8.1 is amended and clause 8.2 is deleted by Cemeteries Amendment Local Law 2020)

**8.3 Damaging and removing of objects**

Subject to clause 8.4, a person shall not damage, remove or pick any tree, plant, shrub or flower in the cemetery, or any other object or thing on any grave or memorial or which is the property of the local government without the permission of the local government.

**8.4 Withered flowers**

A person may remove withered flowers from a grave or memorial and these are to be placed in a receptacle provided by the local government for that purpose.

**8.5 Littering and vandalism**

A person shall not—

- (a) break or cause to be broken any glass, ceramic or other material in or upon the cemetery;
- (b) discard, deposit, leave or cause to be discarded, deposited or left any refuse or litter in or upon the cemetery other than in a receptacle provided for that purpose.



**8.6 Advertising and trading**

A person shall not advertise or carry on any trade, business or profession within the cemetery without the prior written approval of the local government which consent may be granted subject to such conditions as the local government thinks fit.

**8.7 Obeying signs and directions**

A person shall obey all signs displayed, marked, placed or erected by the local government within the cemetery and any other lawful direction by the CEO or an authorised officer.

**8.8 Removal from the cemetery**

Any person failing to comply with any provisions of this local law or behaving in a manner that in the opinion of the local government, the CEO or an authorised officer is inappropriate in the cemetery may, in addition to any penalty provided by this local law, be ordered to leave the cemetery by the local government, the CEO or an authorised officer.

**PART 9—OFFENCES AND MODIFIED PENALTIES**

**9.1 General**

A person who commits a breach of any provisions of this local law commits an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$500 and if the offence is a continuing one to a further penalty not exceeding \$20 for every day or part of a day during which the offence has continued.

**9.2 Modified penalties**

- (1) The offences specified in Schedule 1 are offences which may be dealt with under section 63 of the Act.
- (2) The modified penalty payable in respect of an offence specified in the Schedule 1 is set out in column 4 of Schedule 1.

**9.3 Form of notices**

- (1) The prescribed form of the infringement notice referred to in section 63(1) of the Act is set out in Schedule 2.
- (2) The prescribed form of the notice withdrawing an infringement notice referred to in section 63(3) of the Act is set out in Schedule 3.

*Schedule 1*  
**MODIFIED PENALTIES**

[cl. 9.2(1)]

Item No.	Clause	Nature of Offence	Modified Penalty
1	5.4(1)	Not driving on constructed vehicle areas	\$50
2	5.4(2)	Excessive speed	\$50
3	7.3	Non removal of rubbish and surplus materials	\$50
4	7.7	Leaving uncompleted works in an untidy or unsafe condition	\$50
5	8.1	Bringing animal into cemetery without approval	\$50
6	8.5	Dumping of rubbish	\$50
7	8.6	Unauthorised advertising or trading	\$50
8	8.7	Disobeying sign or lawful direction	\$50

*Schedule 2*  
**INFRINGEMENT NOTICE**

[cl. 9.3(1)]

No. \_\_\_\_\_

To:.....

(Name)

.....

(Address)

..... It is  
alleged that at ..... hours on ..... day of ..... at  
.....

..... you  
committed the offence indicated below by an [x] in breach of clause ..... of the *City of Greater Geraldton  
Cemetery Local Law 2011*.

.....  
(Authorised Person)

Offence—

- Not driving on constructed vehicle areas
- Excessive speed
- Non removal of rubbish and surplus materials
- Leaving uncompleted works in an untidy or unsafe condition
- Bringing animal into cemetery
- Dumping of rubbish
- Unauthorised advertising or trading
- Disobeying sign or lawful direction

\$ .....

You may dispose of this matter by payment of the penalty as shown within 21 days of the date of this notice (or the date of the giving of this notice if that is a different date) to the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Greater Geraldton, Cathedral Avenue Geraldton between the hours of 9.00 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday.

Payments by mail should be addressed to—

Chief Executive Officer  
City of Greater Geraldton  
PO Box 101  
GERALDTON WA 6531

If the penalty is not paid within the time specified, then a complaint of the alleged offence may be made and heard and determined by a court.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Schedule 3**  
**Withdrawal of infringement notice**

[cl. 9.3(2)]

No. .... Date ...../...../.....

To <sup>(1)</sup> .....  
Infringement Notice No. .... dated ...../...../..... for the alleged offence  
of <sup>(2)</sup> .....  
Penalty <sup>(3)</sup> \$..... is withdrawn.

- \* No further action will be taken.
- \* It is proposed to institute court proceedings for the alleged offence.

- <sup>(1)</sup> Insert name and address of alleged offender.
- <sup>(2)</sup> Insert short particulars of offence alleged.
- <sup>(3)</sup> Insert amount of penalty prescribed.

\* (Delete whichever does not apply)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorised Person)

\_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 9 November 2011.

The Common Seal of the City of Greater Geraldton was affixed by authority of a resolution of the Council in the presence of—

IAN CARPENTER, Mayor. ANTHONY BRUN,  
Chief Executive Officer.

