

#### 4. DESIGNATED URUPA - MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY FOR TE RUNANGA O NGA MAATA WAKA

RR 9007

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Corporate Plan Output: Cemeteries Page 9.4.36 and Capital Works Page 9.4.60 Annual Plan	

The purpose of this report is to confirm the location of the proposed Urupa (burial ground) for Nga Maata Waka at Memorial Park Cemetery extension.

#### BACKGROUND

The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting of November 1996, considered a request to the Mayor from Te Runanga O Nga Maata Waka for a Urupa (burial ground) for those Maori who have settled in Christchurch from throughout the North Island.

The Mayor, Parks Manager and Parks Business Support Manager had previously discussed the importance to Komatua of a separate burial area in the city. Indications were given that the only cemetery with potential for extension and development was Memorial Park Cemetery at Bromley.

The Parks and Recreation Committee resolved that an interim reply be forwarded to Te Runanga Nga Maata Waka advising that their request for a Urupa was being looked at as part of a wider review of cemetery requirements for ethnic groups and other related issues.

At an informal meeting of the Maori Liaison Committee on 20 May 1998, Mr N Dewes, Chief Executive of Nga Maata Waka spoke on the pressing need for an Urupa and advised that Memorial Park Cemetery was not considered suitable due to lack of space long term and high water table problems.

At the meeting an assurance was given that the water table problem had been resolved following the installation of a drainage system. The extension to Memorial Park Cemetery is now in progress with sand filling taking place to raise the ground level.

In light of this assurance, representatives of Nga Maata Waka, who need a long term solution for their people, agreed to the following course of action:

1. Plans for allocating a portion of Memorial Park Cemetery to be made available to Nga Maata Waka.
2. Provision for the future needs of Nga Maata Waka to be included in the Council's forward planning process for cemeteries.

## **PROPOSED URUPA ESTABLISHMENT SITE AND USE PARAMETERS**

Following the completion of the concept plans, more detailed plans were completed in October 1998 for the extension at Memorial Park Cemetery. A revised conceptual layout plan for Memorial Park Cemetery is tabled.

Officers consider the area adjoining Ruru Road and bounded by the new internal loop road would be an ideal site for the proposed Urupa. This area will contain room for 765 full interments and 168 ashes plots.

Out of a total Christchurch population of 310,000 there are 21,500 NZ Maori. This is 7% of the population and assuming morbidity rates of 1.2% this equates to 258 deaths per annum. Currently 75% of the Christchurch population are cremated and 25% buried. With Maori the percentage of full burials is probably higher. However, the Ngai Tahu people have their own Urupa and are unlikely to use the Nga Maata Waka Urupa. We therefore expect around 40-80 interments per year from Nga Maata Waka, and their immediate families. The above will of course depend on age, personal choice, and a slow down in the trend for interment in the North Island.

Given the above expectations, the area in Memorial Park Cemetery should last at least seven to ten years, depending on the number of family members also using the Urupa.

For Maori, the establishment of a special Urupa is significant as it means belonging to a place. At present some members are taken back to their tribal Marae throughout the North Island for burial. Nga Maata Waka has given an assurance the cemetery will not be set apart for Maori only.

Given the special nature of the Urupa, bookings will need to be confirmed by Nga Maata Waka prior to booking in the normal manner through the Council. The Urupa will be maintained and run by the Council. Normal cemetery charges will apply.

## **DEVELOPMENT COSTS**

Proposed funding for the extension of Memorial Park Cemetery for the next five years is as follows:

1998/1999	20,000	For filling and survey levels
1999/2000	6,000	Landscape development
2002/2003	20,000	Landscape development
2003/2004	20,000	Landscape development

To develop the proposed Urupa site will cost the following:

(a)	Levelling and sowing in lawn	\$25,000
(b)	Irrigation	\$23,000
(c)	Tree and shrub landscaping	\$16,000
(d)	Concrete beams for headstones	\$20,000
	<b>Total estimated cost</b>	<b>\$84,000</b>

The development of this area would need to be staged with the levelling, grassing and irrigation being included in the Stage 1 work.

#### **POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE**

The Parks Unit's bids for the allocation of \$60,000 in 1999/2000 and \$40,000 in 2000/2001 from the unspecified capital sum for general cemetery improvements were supported by the Committee at its Annual Plan meeting on 3 February. Part of this funding will be used to develop the proposed Urupa. Implementation of the proposal is dependent on the additional funding being provided in the capital works programme.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The establishment of a Urupa within the overall development of Memorial Park Cemetery would provide a burial place for all tribes of Nga Maata Waka and their immediate family members and would meet the immediate need for a local resting place.

The longer term needs will be addressed when future cemetery purchases and developments take place.

Currently there is \$1 million on the five year capital programme between 2000/2002 to purchase extra cemetery land.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council approve the establishment of a Urupa in Memorial Park Cemetery to service the immediate needs of Te Runanga O Maata Waka.
  2. That future longer term cemetery planning and land purchase includes an area for the longer term needs of Te Runanga O Nga Maata Waka.