

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — CEMETERY BOARDS

1328. Hon Tjorn Sibma to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Local Government:

Can the Minister for Local Government please advise:

- (a) what advice the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board and other cemetery boards provide to families of the deceased on the time periods that are applicable to burial plots;
- (b) does the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board and other cemetery boards advise families when the lease of a burial plot is due to expire, if so, when and what options are provided and, if not, why not;
- (c) does the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board and other cemetery boards advise families when headstones and memorials are removed from expired burial plots;
- (d) what safeguards and protocols are in place to ensure that headstones and memorials when removed are not damaged;
- (e) are these headstones and memorials stored or disposed of and, if so, how; and
- (f) are options provided to families to retain these headstones and memorials?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

- (a) Section 25 of the *Cemeteries Act 1986* (the Act) states that a grant of a right of burial may be granted for an initial term of 25 years and may be renewed for a further term of 25 years. The State's cemetery boards, and local governments that are performing the functions of a cemetery board, operate in accordance with the Act.
- (b) No, it is not a requirement of the Act.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Each cemetery board, and local government that is performing the functions of a cemetery board, has its own policies and procedures to ensure that any memorials that are removed are not damaged in the process.
- (e) Section 39 of the Act specifies that the cemetery board, or local government that is performing the functions of a cemetery board, is to erect a memorial containing the names and other such details of deceased persons buried in the redevelopment area when a memorial is removed as part of the redevelopment process. Each board or local government will have its own policies and procedures in relation to their storage and/or disposal.
- (f) Cemetery boards, and local governments that are performing the functions of a cemetery board, may give permission for a memorial to be removed, under section 30(3) of the Act.