

KARRAKATTA CEMETERY RENEWAL PROGRAM

**635. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Minister for Local Government:**

Can the minister update the house on the Karrakatta Cemetery renewal program; and can the minister advise whether he is aware of anyone who has backflipped on their support for the renewal program?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:**

I thank the member for Thornlie for his question. It is a very important question. I am gravely concerned about the perceived backflip by the opposition. It is a serious matter. The renewal program has been going for a couple of decades. For those members who may not be aware, the renewal program essentially and respectfully allows for Karrakatta Cemetery to remain open. That is the fact. The renewal program allows the cemetery at Karrakatta to remain open. It has been supported by both sides of politics in successive governments, recognising that there is an important need to allow people who have relatives or loved ones interred or buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery to also be accommodated next to their loved ones when they themselves pass away. This policy has been around for some time; it is a sensitive policy, but it is important to allow Karrakatta to remain. Unfortunately, there appears to have been a backflip by the Liberal Party, through the member for Nedlands, who in fact represents the area in which Karrakatta Cemetery is located

Earlier this year, I was pleased that the member for Nedlands and the shadow spokesperson attended the cemetery, were briefed extensively and toured the cemetery to observe and get a greater understanding of what the renewal program involves. But it appears from a letter sent to me only late last month, that that bipartisan support of the renewal program has now halted, because the member for Nedlands, a senior member of the Liberal Party, is not only asking me to halt the program, according to his letter, but also saying that decisions related to the renewal program are made hastily.

I remind the member, as he would have had highlighted to him when he visited, that the renewal program is an extensive process in terms of the new areas of the cemetery that are selected for renewal. I also remind the member for Nedlands that employees and small businesses rely upon the future of the cemetery and it remaining open. If the renewal program did not exist or indeed had been halted, the cemetery would close. Is that what the member wants to happen?

**Dr D.J. Honey** interjected.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** What does the member want? The dunny doctor from Cottesloe wants to say something now, does he? Does he want to say something now? Does the member for Cottesloe support halting the renewal program and therefore support the closure of Karrakatta Cemetery? The renewal program is an important renewal process to ensure that the people of Western Australia who have loved ones interred there can be buried with their loved ones when they pass. It is an important policy area, and I am astounded that the member for Nedlands and the Liberal Party have now backflipped on a policy that has been supported for some time and are now advocating closure of the cemetery. I am astounded that the member for Nedlands is doing that when it is located in his area. Jobs rely on the activities and future activities of the cemetery. A number of small businesses are located in and around the precinct of the cemetery and the member is now wishing to deny them ongoing activity. I think that the member needs to understand what his backflip position really is calling for. It is not the right policy position that he should be holding and, indeed, he should reconsider his comments very, very carefully.