



MEDIA RELEASE

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Future management of Poonindie Cemetery

The District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula is developing a Poonindie Cemetery management plan.

In recent weeks community members have voiced concerns over the site's condition and while a site management plan is a long-term solution, interim measures have been taken to make repairs to the site.

Staff have baited for rabbits and are filling in holes to protect existing headstones from further damage, while overgrown vegetation is also being cleaned up.

Chief Executive Officer Delfina Lanzilli said in 2017 Council provided staff with guidelines to develop a management plan and investigate the potential to create a memorial.

“Staff have since been liaising with the Department for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation on the type of work that can be undertaken on the site,” Ms Lanzilli said.

Ms Lanzilli said as part of that process, Council identified that a working group would allow the local indigenous community to have input to formulate the plan, and a group including two local indigenous community members was formed in early 2021.

“The group's purpose is to ensure that any site restoration or work planned is undertaken with respect for those interred on site and acknowledges the history of the cemetery and Poonindie Mission,” Ms Lanzilli said.

The working group is meeting next week to review a draft management plan, and to define any low impact improvements required or a memorial. This will help look at budgeting and possible grant opportunities. Once a draft concept has been agreed upon, it will be presented to Council and the Department for endorsement prior to release for wider consultation.

“We have also been in talks with Flinders University to undertake geo-technical surveying of the site, and continue to work with the Department for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation to ensure we have approval for any planned works to occur,” Ms Lanzilli said.

In the interim, rabbit baiting and vegetation maintenance has occurred and the holes created by rabbits filled in. To protect the site, Council has temporarily closed access to the site and any persons interested in gaining access will need to contact the Cummins office on 8676 0400 prior to gaining entry.

Media Enquiries:

delfinal@dlep.sa.gov.au