



POONINDIE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT CONCEPT PLAN

Council have in place cemetery management plans that detail operational matters and management associated with each of its 'in use' cemeteries. Within that plan, 'not in use' cemeteries are noted however, with the exception of the Poonindie Cemetery are not budgeted for any improvements (The plan suggests an improvement to the perimeter fencing and access gate at Poonindie).

The aim of the cemetery management plan is to provide Council with a strategy for the management of the Poonindie Cemetery into the future and identify improvements Council may wish to consider in the future to recognise the history of the Cemetery.

The plan is designed to:

- Determine any future cemetery maintenance requirements
- Determine any construction priorities
- Ensure the cemetery is managed in a way which will preserve the cultural and heritage values
- Meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999 to adopt community land management plans for all community land
- Document and retain corporate and community history

As Council manage a number of Cemeteries, annual funding is allocated to the operational cemeteries and basic maintenance costs attributed to cemeteries that are no longer in use and it is not anticipated that the development of a plan for Poonindie Cemetery will alter the funding ratios throughout future budgets. It is however recognised that there may be value in creating a more comfortable space for community & family members reflection through an initial investment in low maintenance improvements to this site.

Once final endorsement has been provided by Council, this management plan will become a section within the existing District Council of Lower Eyre Council Cemetery Management Plan that details the management of all cemeteries under Council's care and control.

Location: Adjacent 16 Cemetery Close, North Shields

Assessment number: 2925

C/T: CR5754/990 (Cemetery) CR5754/991 (Reserve around the cemetery site)

Owner: Crown land under Council's care and control
Listed as a State Heritage site

Other References: 'Poonindie – The rise and destruction of an Aboriginal Agricultural Community.'



Gazettal and Dates of Operation

The Cemetery was attached to the Poonindie Mission of the Church of England and operated from 1850 until 1894. The Cemetery and surrounding reserve were placed under the care and control of Council via gazette notice on 8 July 1943.

Council hold no official or confirmed records relating to the site however have been provided with information from members of the community of people believed to be interred on site.

General management

Interment / Site Identification

Due to the history of the site and previous management by entities other than Council, it is unknown as to whether the current fencing adequately represents the interments. Council staff have arranged for the Flinders University to undertake geotechnical surveying of the site and surrounds in August 2022 to identify potential ground disturbances and provide some level of reassurance that the boundary is in a suitable position.

If ground disturbances can be identified, small markers could be placed on each site (slate to represent what was historically on site)

Fencing

Once geotechnical survey results are received, ensure rabbit proof fencing is installed around the cemetery to prevent access to rabbits and protect the site from warrens that reflects the original fencing (pictured below).



Entrance gate

Currently there is a small stock gate for entry into the cemetery. While this is satisfactory to identify the entrance and is similar to those in the majority of operational cemeteries, if grant funding can be sourced, consideration could be given to brick walls to house an entrance gate that replicate the original bricks utilised in the mission housing.

Access & parking

Access to the site is via an unsealed road to the edge of the surrounding reserve. Currently, the surrounding reserve is grazed by nearby farmers. As the parking area is some distance from the site itself, if permission can be granted for an access road and parking through CR5754/991, this will provide access for those with mobility difficulties.

The formalisation of a parking space that can accommodate up to 6 vehicles and formalisation of a formed walking path through the paddock to the cemetery gate would benefit the site.

General management – Continued

Water

There is no water on site. Once a shelter has been installed, a small tank, filled by the run-off from the shelter should be fitted to supply adequate water for floral tributes and hand washing.

Signage

A fingerboard sign situated on the Lincoln Highway identifies a cemetery, however, a sign at the entrance gate adjoined to the carpark should be installed to identify the Poonindie Cemetery and provide some context to the history of the site.

Further podium signs scattered throughout the cemetery will provide points of interest and lead visitors through the site while educating on the history of the mission and cemetery.

Shelters / furniture

There is currently no shelter or furniture on site. A large pine tree provides some shade in the north west corner of the site, however there is bare ground under the tree and the health of the tree is unknown at this time.

Once the geotechnical survey results are received, a gazebo style shelter (with two floor to roof side panels) may be installed to provide a place for reflection on the Eastern side of the cemetery. Due to the elements associated with the area, this is to be constructed from steel (as depicted below) in muted tones.

The names of those believed to be interred on site will then be displayed on the side panels using polycarbonate sheeting to protect from the elements and vandalism. First Nations painting or mosaic of the shelter floor if funding allows.



Above: Gazebo design and example of the panels to be installed displaying names of the people believed to be interred on site.

Landscaping

Establish a line of non-invasive, low maintenance and drought resistant trees around the perimeter of the site (once geotechnical surveying results have been received) to define the boundary and create a sense of enclosure.



Ground surface

Currently the surface is natural clay and becomes boggy during winter and would benefit from the import of crusher fines or small gravel to provide a standard surface across the cemetery.

Once the geotechnical surveying has been completed, a path through the believed interments will be installed in a contrasting colour to define walking areas.

Maintenance

Frequency

While plants are being established, Council maintenance teams will be required to visit the site with a water cart every two weeks (depending upon rainfall).

Once plants are established, a visual inspection of the site should occur every two months to ensure baiting programs are in place and address any ad-hoc maintenance required.

Baiting for rabbits will be required frequently and liaison with Landscapes SA to collaborate on release of rabbit viruses and baiting programs shall be reviewed annually.

Duration

Maintenance plans will be considered annually in line with budgeting processes.

- What is to be maintained
 - Weeds / vegetation
 - Furniture / signs
 - Fencing
 - Car park

Financial considerations

- Initial and ongoing budgets to be developed once plans have been fully scoped.
- Funding of \$25,000 is currently included in the 2022/23 draft budget (note this is yet to be adopted and is unlikely to include the full extent of desired work).

Future Strategies

- Grant opportunities

Once a plan has been finalised, grant opportunities will be applied for by Council.

- Medium / long term goals

Improvement suggested	Priority	Timeframe
Identification of interment sites	1	End 2022
Fencing	2	End 2022
Planting		
Shelter		
Pathways / Ground surface		
Car park		
Signage		

Poonindie Cemetery Concept Plan—Layout



Rubble Road & Carparks



Rabbit Proof Fence



Trees



Shelter



Entrance gates



Tank



Bench seat



Information Signs

