

19/477 Public Crematorium at Gungahlin

Summary of Impacts	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A public crematorium may help meet some of the identified community needs that are not currently being met related to cremation services, in particular religious and cultural needs. • A public facility would provide greater choice to the community and could result in improved competitive outcomes in the market. • There may be positive long-term impacts for the ACT Government Budget, by increasing own-source funding available to address the ACT Cemeteries Authority's (the Authority) unfunded liability related to the future maintenance of cemeteries in the Territory.

Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue – neutral, Green – positive.

Social

Access to services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A publicly operated crematorium would improve access to services to the community and provide for greater choice in relation to cremations. • Currently, there is only one crematorium in the ACT that is not meeting all community needs. A public crematorium facility may be able to address some of these unmet needs.
Human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new publicly operated crematorium would provide a mechanism to ensure that more of the community's needs in relation to cremations can be met. • Increasing options available to meet individual needs supports the human right to freedom of belief.
Indigenous and multicultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recent community engagement process on the review of the <i>Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003</i> indicated that more than 1 in 10 people who have a religious or cultural need in relation to burial or cremation do not have this need met. This disproportionately impacts the multicultural community. • A new publicly operated crematorium would provide a mechanism for helping to ensure a greater proportion of these needs can be met.

Economic

ACT Government Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There would be no requirement for funding of the crematorium directly from the ACT Government Budget, as capital funding would be provided by the Cemeteries Authority from its current financial reserves. • If the crematorium proceeds, in the long term there should be a positive impact on the ACT Government Budget, as it can provide an additional funding source that can help meet the costs associated with addressing the current unfunded liability of the Authority related to the future maintenance of ACT cemeteries. This would reduce the quantum of additional Budget funding needed to meet this liability.
Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ACT currently only has one crematorium which is privately operated. • Introducing a new crematorium would increase consumer choice in the market, which may lead to improved consumer outcomes due to increased competition in the market. • To ensure a positive outcome for competition as a result of the entry of a publicly owned and operated crematorium, the facility will need to demonstrate compliance with the ACT Competitive Neutrality policy. • Detailed analysis exploring options for ensuring a public crematorium is operated in a manner consistent with competitive neutrality policy accompanies the submission.

Environmental

Nil impact.