

Natural burial

Natural burial or green burial offers a simple and sustainable resting place with minimal disturbance to the bushland environment. This is an alternative to traditional interment and allows the grave to blend into the surrounding landscape.

The process of natural burial is one where the body of the deceased person is placed in the soil to decompose naturally.

Not all cemeteries offer the option of natural burial.

If natural burial is your choice of interment, it is important to read the cemetery's policies and terms and conditions to see what is permissible.

It may also be helpful to visit the site see if you are happy with the appearance of the natural burial location.

The natural landscape

The natural landscape is an important consideration for this type of burial. To ensure that the environment and landscape are not affected, all materials used must be biodegradable or of a compostable material.

For example, coffins, caskets and urns can only be made from readily biodegradable materials such as cardboard, particle board, cane, bamboo or wicker.

Another common option for natural burial is the use of a shroud.

Memorialisation

Memorialisation differs for each location and operator. Some operators allow:

- discreet burial site memorials
- natural burial site markers, such as a rock, a wooden plaque, a tree or a native plant
- no burial site memorials, but instead commemorative features that record the names of those interred.

Other operators prefer a completely natural looking landscape with no memorials, physical markers or tributes.

Generally natural burial grave sites are recorded using GPS coordinates. This ensures that the locations are accurate and that the landscape can remain as natural as possible.

More information

Cemeteries & Crematoria NSW is a statutory body created under the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2013*, providing a strategic and coordinated approach for operators providing interment services in NSW.

For general information visit the website at www.industry.nsw.gov.au/ccnsw

Email: ccnsw.info@cemeteries.nsw.gov.au

For more detailed information please contact your preferred cemetery or crematoria provider.