

Hon David A Templeman Dip Tchg BEd MLA

**Minister for Local Government, Heritage, Culture and The Arts**

7th Floor, Dumas House

2 Havelock Street,

WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Mr Templemann

On 21 November 2017, the Hon Bill Marmion, MLA, presented a petition to the Legislative Assembly calling for the immediate cessation of the redevelopment program at Karrakatta Cemetery. I would like to know when you will move to refer that petition for committee consideration in accordance with Legislative Assembly Standing Orders 67. The Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board is on record as saying that the process will cease if the public does not want it. I, for one, am well aware of the repugnance with which the general public regard that process, but I am also aware that no attempt has ever been made to legitimately gauge the public's response. Debate on this petition is an ideal, and long overdue, vehicle to test public feeling. If you believe the public supports this practise, you can have no reason to suppress this issue, to hide from the public the reality of what has been done at Karrakatta since 1977 or to gloss over the devastation it has already wrought on our heritage and on WA families.

I look forward to your early action on this issue.

Yours

Email: [letters@wanews.com.au](mailto:letters@wanews.com.au)

The Editor

The *West Australian*

On 21 November 2017, the Hon Bill Marmion, MLA, presented a petition to the Legislative Assembly calling for the immediate cessation of the redevelopment program at Karrakatta Cemetery – a process which removes all memorials and markers to existing burials to allow new burial plots to be sold to an unsuspecting public in the pathways and part of the adjacent plots occupied by those existing burials. The Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board is on record as saying that the process will cease if the public does not want it. I, for one, am well aware of the repugnance with which the general public regard that process, but I am also aware that no attempt has ever been made to legitimately gauge the public's response on this issue.

The public deserve to have their say on whether the Board should run Karrakatta as a recycling plant or as a place of eternal rest to which they can safely entrust the remains of their loved ones.

The logical next step would be for the responsible Minister, the Hon David Templeman – a long term opponent of the process who appears to have changed his tune since becoming a Minister - to refer the petition for committee consideration in accordance with Legislative Assembly Standing Orders 67. Debate on this petition is an ideal, and long overdue, vehicle to test public feeling. If the Minister believes the public supports this practise, he can have no reason to suppress the petition, to hide from the public the reality of what has been done at Karrakatta since 1977 or to gloss over the devastation it has already wrought on our heritage and on WA families. Make your views known to him at:

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And don't forget to visit the *Saving Family Headstones at Karrakatta* website for the latest news and views.