

Town of Gawler

Willaston Cemetery - Renewals of Interment Rights and Re-Use of Sites



Can an Interment Right be renewed at any time?

Yes. Interment Rights can be renewed at any time during the tenure period – you do not have to wait until the Interment Right has expired. The period of renewal is simply added to the Interment Right, extending the expiry date. The minimum renewal period is five years, Interment Rights that have expired can also be renewed. For more information, please contact Town of Gawler.

Will I be contacted when the Interment Right is about to expire?

Prior to expiry of the Interment Right, Town of Gawler will attempt to contact the Interment Right Holder and/or family representative to advise them of the renewal process. As such, it is important for families to provide Town of Gawler with their current contact details.

If the Interment Right over my family's site has expired, is it still there and can I renew the Interment Right?

In most cases, yes. It is encouraged that families contact Town of Gawler to renew the Interment Right. This will ensure the site is preserved and potentially allow the family to have further loved ones interred within the site.

Renewal of the Interment Right also assists the Town of Gawler to maintain the cemetery grounds to a high standard. For more information, please contact Town of Gawler.

What happens when an expired Interment Right is considered for re-use?

The Town of Gawler will write to the Interment Right Holder and/or family representative to advise them of their ability to renew the Interment Right.

The re-use of any site is governed by Section 38 of the [Burial and Cremations Act 2013](#) and Section 33 of the [Burial and Cremation Regulations 2014](#).

Town of Gawler will also place notification on the grave or memorial site asking the Interment Right Holder or any other interested party to contact Town of Gawler. Advice will also be published in the Public Notices section of The Advertiser and on The Town of Gawler website.

If the Interment Right Holder or other interested party chooses not to renew, or a minimum period of 2 years has passed with no contact; ownership of the impacted site reverts to the Town of Gawler. At this point in time, the site may be re-used in accordance with the *Burial and Cremation Act 2013*.

What happens to the skeletal remains when a site is reused?

The process of reusing a site is undertaken with the greatest of dignity, care and respect. All skeletal remains are carefully recovered from the site and placed within an ossuary box and re-interred at a lower depth within the existing site.

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Can the Monument be reclaimed?

When a site is being considered for re-use and the family has elected not to proceed with renewing the Interment Right; the family may apply to reclaim the monument. Conditions will apply and documentation will be required. For more information, please contact Town of Gawler.

Further Information

For additional information, please contact Town of Gawler's Cemetery Officer on 8522 9211 or via email on council@gawler.sa.gov.au.

Content for this fact sheet is consistent with Policy recommendations 3, 4 and 6 of the adopted [Willaston Cemetery Conservation and Management Plan \(2024\)](#)

Other available fact sheets include:

- Interments (Burials & Cremations)
- When is Development approval required?
- Grave Cleaning and Maintenance
- General Questions