

Town of Gawler

Willaston Cemetery – Interments (Burials & Cremations)



How many interments can take place in a standard burial site?

A standard burial site can generally accommodate up to three adult burials, one above the other. In addition, cremated remains may also be interred into burial sites. Families wishing to have the option of interring up to three people within one site should advise their funeral director at the time of the first burial taking place so that the grave can be dug to a greater depth.

When I purchase a burial site, is it mine forever?

In accordance with South Australian legislation, the Town of Gawler offers Interment Rights for a period of 50 years for burial and memorial sites. Interment Rights can be renewed at any time during the tenure period. The minimum renewal period is 5 years. For more information, please contact the Town of Gawler.

Can I be buried with my parents?

Yes, as long as the Interment Right is still in tenure, there is available space, and you have the correct authority over the burial site (you are the Interment Right Holder or have their permission).

Can I be buried with my ancestors

If your ancestors' grave is considered to be an historic Site and of historic value, there will be additional requirements. Further information is likely to be required. Relevant information may include but not limited to proposed changes to historic

monuments, additional inscription, addition of a new plaque or monument, engineering advice in relation to stability of the soil and/or impacts on surrounding historic graves and any works that may have physical or visual impact on the historic monument adjacent monuments. Information concerning work of this nature will likely be required as part of a Development Application. Further information is outlined in the Willaston Cemetery – When is a development application required fact sheet.

Can I inter cremated remains in a burial site?

Yes, as long as the Interment Right is still in tenure, there is available space, and you have the correct authority over the burial site (you are the Interment Right Holder or have their permission). If the Interment Right Holder has passed away, please contact the Town of Gawler.

What is a Lift and Deepen Procedure?

A Lift and Deepen Procedure means a procedure that consists of:

- a) Opening an interment site;
- b) Recovering any skeletal remains interred in the site;
- c) Deepening or otherwise enlarging the interment site; and
- d) Re-interring the existing skeletal remains in the place of interment, whether contained in a receptacle or not, so as to provide space for additional interments in the site.

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When is a Lift and Deepen procedure used and how can it be arranged?

An Interment Right Holder can arrange with Council for extra space to be made in an interment site through a Lift and Deepen Procedure in accordance with the Act and Regulations where:

- Earlier interments were at insufficient depth for further burials; and
- At least six years have elapsed since the most recent burial

What is an Exhumation?

An Exhumation is the removal of remains from the existing site within the Cemetery.

What is the difference between a Lift and Deepen Procedure and an Exhumation?

An exhumation is the removal of remains from an existing site within the Cemetery for relocation elsewhere (even an adjacent grave). Unlike the Lift and Deepen procedure, the remains are not returned lower into the original grave. Exhumation must have approval from the State Government Health Department and the Attorney-General.

A Lift and Deepen allows for skeletal remains to be recovered and placed lower in the same grave within the Cemetery.

Who is responsible for erecting the monumentation?

In most cases the Interment Right Holder is responsible for organising the monumentation. It is also the responsibility of the Interment Right Holder to maintain the headstone or memorial. It is preferred that a registered monumental mason or such other qualified tradesperson perform all monumental works undertaken within the Willaston Cemetery. If the family wish to undertake monumental work themselves, a copy of their Public Liability Insurance must be provided to Council as part of the application process.

Existing historic monuments can be maintained by family members or history groups. Significant conservation work should only be done after consultation with Heritage SA and may require development approval.

Maintenance includes weeding, raking up leaves, minor site levelling to facilitate runoff, minor top up filling, location and retention on site of broken pieces, temporary chocking and support of masonry monuments and cleaning with potable water and nylon brush.

Is there still space available at the Willaston Cemetery?

Yes, however you are unable to pre-purchase a burial site. Burial sites are assigned on an as needs basis. Pre-Purchase can be arranged in the Niche Wall or Rose Garden (cremation sites).

Rose Garden & Niche Wall monuments

Town of Gawler staff will arrange the headstone in the Rose Garden and plaque in the Niche Wall in consultation with the family. Once the wording has been received, a proof will be prepared for the family to review and written approval will be required prior to the plaque or headstone being completed.

Can I be present at the placement of cremated remains?

Yes, staff can arrange a time and date which is suitable for the family. Placement can occur during the week (Monday-Friday) or on Saturday mornings. However the placement of cremated remains on a Saturday will incur an additional cost. For more information, please contact the 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 1, 3, 5 and 6 of the adopted [Willaston Cemetery Conservation and Management Plan](#).

Other available fact sheets include:

- When is Development approval required?
- Renewals of Interment Rights and Re-Use of Sites
- Grave Cleaning and Maintenance
- General Questions