



Community Consultation Feedback Report

**The Natural Burial Ground Trust of Australia –
Draft Lease Proposal**

Contents

Consultation Feedback Report.....	1
1.0 Background.....	3
2.0 Engagement Snapshot.....	4
2.1 Engagement Snapshot Methods and Outcomes.....	5
3.0 Consultation Response Overview.....	6
3.1 Evaluation	6
4.0 Self-nomination to participate	7
5.0 Consultation images.....	7
6.0 Communication channels and media reach.....	7

1.0 Background

Following strong community support during the 2024 consultation, Council began negotiating a draft agreement with the Natural Burial Trust of Australia to establish a proposed natural burial ground on the unused and unoccupied land at the Old Goolwa Cemetery. Lease area highlighted in red

Council now welcomes feedback on a proposal to enter into a 42-year lease with the Natural Burial Ground Trust of Australia, for the purpose of establishing a not-for-profit natural burial ground within the unused portion of the Goolwa Cemetery.

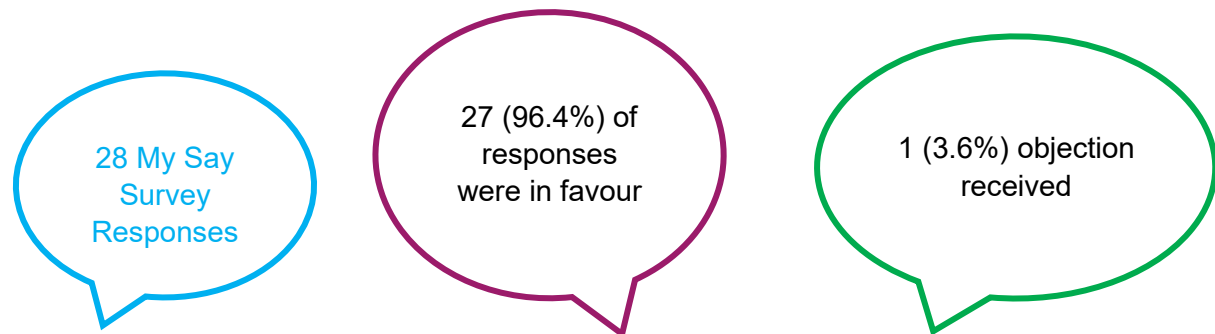
As the land is classified as community land and the term of the lease is greater than 5 years, community engagement is required to ensure the community is provided with the essential terms of the proposal and an opportunity to comment on the proposal should they choose to do so.



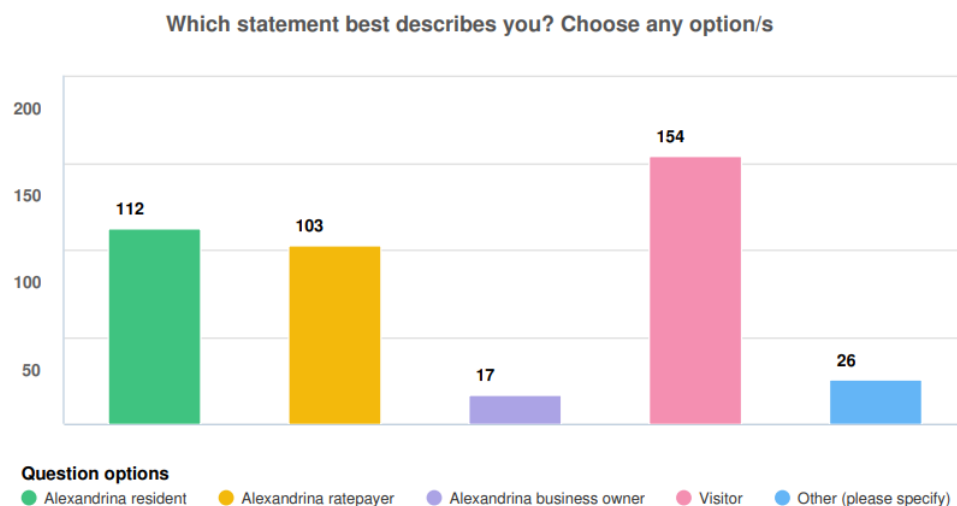
2.0 Engagement Snapshot

During the consultation period from 19 May – 20 June 2025, **a total of 28 submissions** were received across both the My Say platform and via email/hard copy.

Email and hard copy surveys were consolidated into the My Say platform to streamline data and keep it in one central location.



Who we heard from:



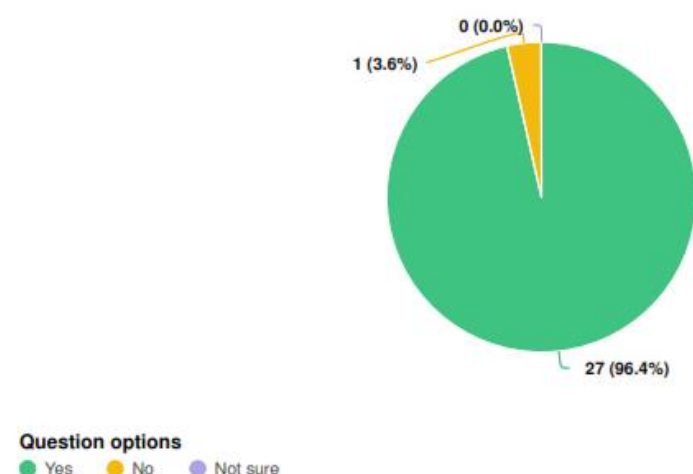
2.1 Engagement Snapshot Methods and Outcomes

Activity/ Method	Date	External stakeholder	Outcome/ Result
My Say project page	Live from 29 May	Public	877 total page visits 28 submissions via the online survey 63 document downloads
My Say e-newsletter		Those that registered for email updates via My Say	Email sent to 1,338 subscribers 53.6% open rate
Direct email	30 May	Those that responded to the 2024 consultation	Email sent to 57 respondents
Local Displays – Council Office, library, community noticeboards	29 May – 20 June	Notice to be placed on Council display boards including promotion of ways to get involved.	 Community Consultation Draft Lease Proposal The Natural Burial Ground Trust of Australia Following strong community support during the 2024 consultation, Council began negotiating a draft agreement with the Natural Burial Trust of Australia to establish a proposed natural burial ground on the unused and unoccupied land at the Old Goolwa Cemetery. Open 29 May until 20 June at 5 pm View the proposed lease terms including concept plan and next steps and provide your feedback by completing the survey. Complete a submission on Council's website at mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/natural-burial-ground-lease Email responses can be sent to alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au (with subject heading "Natural Burial Ground") Written responses can be sent to: Alexandrina Council PO Box 21 Goolwa SA 5214 Submit your feedback on Council's website mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/natural-burial-ground-lease

3.0 Consultation Response Overview

3.1 Evaluation

Q5 | Do you support the Natural Burial Ground Trust of Australia 42-year Draft Lease Proposal?



Two (2) questions were raised via the MySay engagement. Additional information was uploaded onto MySay on the 4 June 2025 as below:

Question: What happens to the burial site after 42 years?

Answer: It is anticipated that the Natural Burial Grounds will apply for a new lease on expiry of the current 42-year term. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, Council is unable to offer a lease term greater than 42 years. If the NBG or other body did not apply or where not successful with a new lease in 42 years' time, the Council will revert back to being the cemetery authority and continue to manage the cemetery in accordance with the requirements of the Burial and Cremation Act 2013 (SA) (or Act of that time).

Question - Will ratepayers have priority burial access if demand is high?

Answer - The NBG see no reason that Alexandrina residents would not be accommodated in this way. Practically, NBG will assess uptake and burial rates over the first years, and, with that knowledge, will engage in forward planning to manage natural burial space for residents across the duration of tenure.

Key themes in support of the proposal are:

- Good, fantastic idea
- Great and greener alternative
- Asset to our community and environment
- Plant humans and trees – awesome idea
- Environment will benefit
- Innovative idea and forward-thinking project
- Compliments existing adjacent cemetery
- Unique natural space to be laid to rest in the bush surrounded by nature

Key themes in objecting to the proposal are:

- Nonsense idea that will cost ratepayers money with no valuable return.

4.0 Self-nomination to participate

It is important to acknowledge that involvement in the public consultation process is voluntary, with participants self-nominating to contribute. As a result, the feedback gathered should not be regarded as statistically representative of all perspectives.

5.0 Consultation images

N/A

6.0 Communication channels and media reach

Website	Date	Results
Instagram post	29 May and 19 June	Over 900 views and 800 accounts reached
Facebook post	29 May and 19 June	Approximately 15,000 reached and over 2,000 engaged
Public Notice Fleurieu Sun and Southern Argus	29 May	ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL Community Consultations Council seeks community feedback on the following two (2) consultations. Please direct all written submissions via mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au, email alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au or by post to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 21, Goolwa SA 5214. For further information, please call Council's Manager Property and Procurement Services on 8555 7000. The Natural Burial Ground Trust of Australia Draft Lease Council seeks community feedback on a proposal to enter into a 42-year lease with the Natural Burial Ground Trust of Australia for the purpose of establishing a not-for-profit natural burial ground within the unused portion of the Goolwa Cemetery. Submissions will be accepted by Council until 5 pm, 20 June 2025.

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