



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**QTON No. 10**

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES  
MS TARA CHEYNE MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2018–19 Annual and Financial Reports**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**13 November 2019**

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Asked by Ms Tara Cheyne:

In relation to: Norwood Park

**THE CHAIR:** Yes. And I note that on the second tab about its attributes that the Condolence Chapel, memorial gardens and various other memorials are not a specific part of the heritage significance of the place. How is that determined? How are conclusions reached in that space?

**Ms Moore:** So the council does an independent assessment, so the process is that a nomination is made where a community member puts forward what the community thinks—that there is something there, that there is heritage there. The council will go and do a thorough independent assessment of that place, which involves all primary and secondary material, site visits, condition assessments and in the instance of a building, building records to know what was original and what is new.

So it does a full assessment of that place and in terms of the specifics on that, I would have to take that on notice as to why they were not included, but potentially it could be because they might not be original features or they are not contributing to the identified significance of the place, which is—it is architectural characteristics of the crematorium and the social significance of changing attitudes to cremation and burial in the ACT.

**THE CHAIR:** Okay.

**Mr Walker:** And I guess an important—and I touched on this earlier—an important element of listing this site is that it does not impact on the operations that are occurring there and it has no relevance to that.

**THE CHAIR:** Okay, yes.

**Mr Walker:** But it also means that in a future world, if that venue was not a crematorium, those heritage values would stay with the property and that is an important element in terms of reuse of the facility for something else. I am not sure what you would use it—

**THE CHAIR:** That is why I am particularly interested in why memorial gardens would not be part of that listing, given I am pretty sure families may feel that that should be part of it and given those memorial gardens are not just plaques and shrubs, that there are actually ashes in those gardens.



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**Ms Moore:** So the building has been listed as a class of place, being a crematorium, not as a cemetery, so that may go some way to answer that question as well, that the significance is the building; that is what they are looking at ...(inaudible)... [12.26.38] for the—not necessarily the burial plots as they exist. But I am happy to take that on notice.

**THE CHAIR:** Yes, if you would not mind. I am obviously very curious, given particularly just that final paragraph on the YourSay second tab just raises some questions for me, that the physical fabric that comprises the non-listed features does not need to be preserved for the purpose of the heritage listing. I understand where you are coming from—

**Ms Moore:** Let us take it on notice and I will clarify for you.

**MINISTER GENTLEMAN:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

In determining which physical characteristics are included as part of the heritage significance of a place, the ACT Heritage Council (the Council):

- conducts research and assessment into the condition and history of a place;
- makes an assessment of significance against the heritage significance criteria under section 10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*; and
- determines which physical characteristics accurately reflect and capture significance.

The Council examined the Condolence Chapel and found that, as a recent addition to Norwood Park (2004), it was not linked closely enough to the early history of the place as a symbol of changing attitudes towards cremation as a preferred method of management of the deceased. The Council found the Condolence Chapel did not have significance to the ACT and did not meet heritage significance criteria.

With regards to individual memorials, their physical characteristics were not considered distinctive enough or were not of an age linked closely enough to the history of the place to have significance to the ACT. In forming its view of the significance of the memorials, the Council did not wish to impose on families' rights to manage the remains of their loved ones remains as they wish.

It was also a concern of the Council that including the gardens and memorials would make maintenance or upgrades an onerous proposition and would require a future heritage listing to be continuously updated to incorporate new additions.

A four week public consultation period followed the provisional registration of Norwood Park in September 2019. No submissions made during this period suggested the inclusion of memorial gardens in the Heritage Register entry.



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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "MG", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Date: 27/11/19

By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman

