

Sanitary Assessment

Crematoria and Cemeteries 2012

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Part 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) requires Council to assess cemeteries and crematoria.

As part of the development of the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan Council reviewed these assessments to ensure they accurately reflect the current and future provision of the service.

It was established that due to changes in capacity at Onerahi cemetery as well as the operation of the crematorium it is appropriate to update the assessments to reflect the current and future planning provisions of the service.

The assessments were also revised at the same time to reflect changes to the LGA in terms of the content requirements of assessments.

Section 125 of the LGA provides that Council must adopt an assessment using the Special Consultative Procedure of Section 83 of the LGA. Council has therefore determined that it is appropriate to consult with the community on the proposed changes to the Sanitary Assessments for Cemeteries and Crematoria.

The original sanitary assessments for Cemeteries and Crematoria were combined into one assessment. Due to the nature and revised content of the original assessment this has now been split into two, one for cemeteries and one for crematoria.

Sanitary Assessment – Crematoria

Key changes to the assessment

The 2008 review of the Sanitary Assessment for crematoria identified the need to replace the aging cremator unit located at Maunu Cemetery within 5 years.

During the preparation of its 2009 – 2019 Long Term Council Community Plan, Council resolved not to replace the unit due to the considerable cost involved. Instead it would explore opportunities within the private sector to provide a cremation service. A five-year lease for the existing crematorium and chapel building was consequently executed for Maunu Crematorium Ltd on 25 February 2010.

Since then, Maunu Crematorium Ltd has installed a new cremator, ensuring current and future demand for cremation services will be met for the duration of the current lease. Rights of renewal for the lease, and the age and ability of the cremator to operate within the conditions of consents, will ensure long-term security for a cremation service in the District.

Council no longer has any direct operational involvement in the provision of cremation services. However, it does continue to receive income through the lease, and the service continues to its high standard with cremations still available six days a week at an affordable price.

Although Council is obliged under current legislation to ensure cremation facilities are available in the District, it does not necessarily have to provide them. Should Maunu Crematorium Ltd cease its activities in this area, Council would need to ensure that sufficient provision is made by other private operators, or resume the service itself.

Sanitary Assessment – Crematoria 2012

Introduction

This assessment has been reviewed and updated as part of the development of the Long Term Plan.

Section 125 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to from time to time assess the provision within its district of sanitary services. Sanitary services are referenced in Section 124 as having the same meaning as sanitary works in Section 25 of the Health Act 1956. Section 25 (1) (h) and (i) refers to cemeteries.

Council's assessment of crematoria has been reviewed as part of the development of the Long Term Plan and it has been determined appropriate to update the assessment to more accurately reflect the current situation. However, since the first assessment of crematoria was undertaken in 2005, the LGA has been amended and Section 127 of the LGA, which set out the information required in the assessment of sanitary services, was repealed in 2010. Whilst this revised assessment is largely based on the now repealed requirements of Section 127 it has been further summarised and updated.

This assessment:

- describes the crematoria within the District for each community
- forecasts future demands for crematoria within the District and each community
- sets out and assess the options available to meet the forecast demand for each community and the District
- states the territorial authority's intended role, and its proposals for meeting the current and future demands
- states the extent that the proposals will ensure that public health is adequately protected.

Description of existing crematoria

Whangarei District is not significantly large geographically and has modern roading and transport facilities but there is often an expectation that a crematoria is available within a reasonable proximity to the population centres.

It is proposed for the purposes of this assessment to apply a District-wide approach as currently one facility services the whole District.

Council-owned facilities

Under Section 4(1) of the Burials and Cremations Act 1964 territorial authorities are obliged to:

'Where sufficient provision is not otherwise made for the burial of the bodies of persons dying within its district, to establish and maintain a suitable cemetery.'

Section 39 of the Act further requires that:

'The provisions of this Act relating to the powers and duties of local authorities with respect to cemeteries shall so far as they are applicable and with any necessary modifications apply to crematoria under or proposed to be under the control and management of local authorities and any such crematorium situated within the boundaries of a cemetery which is under the control and management of the same local authority shall for the purposes of this Act be deemed to be part of that cemetery'.

Council up until February 2010 operated cremation facilities at Maunu Cemetery. During the preparation of the 2009 – 2019 Long Term Community Plan it was resolved to not fund the replacement of the existing aged cremator unit.

To enable continuation of the cremation service it was decided to explore opportunities with the private sector. This ensured that Council continued to meet its obligations into the future under the Burials and Cremations Act.

As a result Council executed a lease to Maunu Crematorium LTD for the existing building housing the original cremator. Maunu Crematorium LTD have subsequently installed a new cremator unit.

Forecast of future demand for services

Introduction

This assessment has been reviewed and updated to align with the development of the draft 2012 Long Term Plan, however due to the deferral of the 2011 Census the forecasting information has not been updated. It has been determined that the information used in 2006 is still sufficiently appropriate to use as a basis for planning Council delivery

of cremation services. When new Census data is available, the forecasting information will be updated and the assessment will be further reviewed.

Further information relating to the 2006 forecasting information can be found in the 2012 Sanitary Assessment for Cemeteries.

Kaipara and Far North district demands

The Far North is serviced by a privately owned and operated crematorium located on the outskirts of Kerikeri. The majority of cremations of those dying in the Kaipara District are undertaken at the Maunu Crematorium with a limited number going south to the crematorium at Schnapper Rock Rd, Albany.

The expected average annual number of deaths in Kaipara in 2006 is estimated to be 160 rising to 180 in 2026, whereas in the Far North the corresponding figures are 480 and 640 respectively. This represents a 12.5% increase for Kaipara and a 33% increase for Far North.

Total demand for services

This projected demand has been estimated from existing demand adjusted by the expected increase in mortality over the next 20 years from within the Whangarei District and the out of District cremations from Kaipara and Far North. The following table summarises the total projected demand for burial plots for each of the 5 year blocks from 2006 to 2026. These figures are based on an assumption of a future mix of 80% cremations and 20% full burials.

Summary of Cremation Projections						
	2001-06	2006 – 11	2011 -16	2016 – 21	2021 – 26	Total 2006 – 2026
In District	1,975	2,053	2,210	2,446	2,681	9,390
Out of District	350	395	426	458	490	1,769
Total	2,325	2,448	2,636	2,904	3,171	11,159

Options to meet the demand

The demands for cremation are proposed to be met using the existing facilities located at Maunu Crematorium.

The existing cremator unit has a design capacity of 1500 cremations per year. Currently and average demand of 500 cremations exists. This leaves the availability of another further 1,000 cremations per annum of capacity. Should demand increase to a point where by this capacity fully exhausted space exists within the current building for further capacity to be created by the leasee.

Demand for Cremations is dependent on a number of factors including:

- mortality rates
- population growth rates
- age distributions
- preference ratio of cremation over burials
- availability of community cemeteries.

Given that significant capacity exists for the foreseeable future it is anticipated that the current facilities will be able to meet demand for the next 10 years.

Council's role and proposals in meeting demand

This section sets out Council's proposed role in the provision of crematoria facilities and approaches for meeting future demand.

Role regarding Council operated facilities

1. Council still retains ownership of the crematoria building located at Maunu Cemetery.
2. Council is no longer involved in the direct operation of the crematoria service.
3. Should the current provider cease operation, Council will need to either find an alternative provider or, become directly involved in the provision of crematoria services.

Meeting demand

Demand is currently being met by the operation of the lease agreement and will be met in the future by rights of renewals as contained within the document.

Protection of public health

Council will continue to ensure that there will be adequate capacity to meet the demand for cremation facilities in the District.

The current facility complies with all legislative requirements and resource consent conditions. The technology used within the cremator unit will ensure that this will continue into the foreseeable future.

Sanitary Assessment – Cemeteries

Key changes to the assessment

Maunu, Onerahi and Kamo Cemeteries are the only three operational cemeteries within the Whangarei District for which Council takes responsibility for care and maintenance.

The standards of maintenance for each are amongst the highest in the country. Burials are available six days a week and remain affordable.

At the time of the last Sanitary Assessment in 2008, Kamo Cemetery was closed to new plot purchases. Onerahi Cemetery had approximately 50 plots still available, and Maunu Cemetery had sufficient capacity to meet demand for the next 40 years.

Since 2008, all remaining plots in the Onerahi Cemetery have been purchased and there is now no room for further burials. However, the cemetery will remain open for burials in plots already purchased and reserved, as well as for the interment of ashes for which space still remains.

Development will need to continue at Maunu cemetery, Whangarei District's largest cemetery and the only one remaining fully operational, to meet current demand and ensure sufficient capacity is available as smaller rural cemeteries become full and close, and the population of Whangarei grows.

The facilities at Maunu Cemetery are adequate to service current demands, but considerable capital investment will be required if this is to continue into the future. Consideration will also need to be given in the long term for the purchase of further land to meet future needs.

Whangarei District Council is committed to ongoing maintenance of all three cemeteries.

Although Council is obliged under current legislation to ensure cemetery facilities are available in the District, it does not have to provide them. However, should Council cease its activities in this area, it would need to ensure that sufficient provision is made by private operators.

Council is obliged to continue its care and maintenance of closed cemeteries, and is also required to maintain burial provision for disasters and epidemics.

Sanitary Assessment – Cemeteries 2012

Introduction

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Council's assessment of cemeteries has been reviewed as part of the development of the Long Term Plan and it has been determined appropriate to update the assessment to more accurately reflect the current situation. However, since the first assessment of cemeteries was undertaken in 2005 the LGA has been amended and Section 127 of the LGA, which set out the information required in the assessment of sanitary services, was repealed in 2010. Whilst this revised assessment is largely based on the now repealed requirements of Section 127 it has been further summarised and updated.

This assessment:

- describes the cemeteries within the District for each community
- forecasts future demands for cemeteries within the District and each community
- sets out and assess the options available to meet the forecast demand for each community and the District
- states the territorial authority's intended role, and its proposals for meeting the current and future demands
- states the extent that the proposals will ensure that public health is adequately protected.

Description of existing cemeteries

Whangarei District is not significantly large geographically and has modern roading and transport facilities but there is often an expectation that a cemetery is available within a reasonable proximity to the population centres.

It is proposed for the purposes of this assessment to break the District into three communities, namely Northern, Central and Southern. The boundaries are based on the old city area of Whangarei, the Southern area i.e., that south of SH 14 and the Northern area that north of SH 14. Based on 2001 census, approximately 60% of the District's population is within the Central area, 23% the Northern area and the balance of 17% in the Southern area.

Council-owned facilities

Under Section 4(1) of the Burials and Cremations Act 1964 territorial authorities are obliged to:

'Where sufficient provision is not otherwise made for the burial of the bodies of persons dying within its district, to establish and maintain a suitable cemetery'.

Council has a long history of providing cemeteries to meet its obligations under the Burials and Cremations Act.

Provided below is a list of the cemeteries owned and managed by Council, together with their location, status and the area(s) served.

Cemetery/ crematorium	Location	Community served	Status
Ketenikau	Ketenikau Rd, Kamo	City, Northern	Open with limited capacity
Onerahi	Church St, Onerahi	City	Open with very limited capacity
Maunu Cemetery	Cemetery Rd, Maunu	City, Northern, Southern	Open
Kioreroa	SH 1, Raumanga	Historical	Closed
McLeod Bay	Whangarei Heads Rd, McLeod Bay	Historical	Closed

Cemetery/ crematorium	Location	Community served	Status
Selwyn Ave	Selwyn Ave, Whangarei	Historical	Closed
Tongatu Rd	Tongatu Rd Ngunguru	Historical	Closed
Whananaki South	Whananaki South	Historical	Closed

Community cemeteries

There are a number of other cemeteries in the District which are owned either by the Whangarei District Council, the Crown or the local community and are managed by local committees or trust boards. There are Māori Urupa (cemeteries) which are typically managed by the local marae committee. In addition there are some cemeteries which are linked to either current or closed churches. These groups in a combined sense form an important role in providing for the burial of bodies of persons within the District. As a consequence they have been included in this assessment.

Further investigation is required to confirm their status, current level of use, the extent of their availability and remaining capacity. This information is proposed to be gathered at a later stage by way of a questionnaire to the various cemetery trustees.

Forecast of future demand for services

Introduction

This assessment has been reviewed and updated to align with the development of the Long Term Plan. However, due to the deferral of the 2011 Census, forecasting information has not been updated. It has been determined that information used in 2006 is still sufficiently appropriate to use as a basis for planning Council delivery of cemetery services. When new Census data is available the forecasting information will be updated and the assessment will be further reviewed.

Demand for the District's cemeteries and crematorium are based on deaths of residents of the District and from those in the Far North and Kaipara Districts. The following sections will use mortality projections from Statistics NZ for the Whangarei, Kaipara and Far North Districts and the current use out of District use of the Maunu crematorium to predict the future demand for services.

The demand has not been differentiated by religious denomination, ethnic group or RSA requirements. This was seen to be beyond the general scope of the assessment, which has a public health focus. A number of Māori urupa have been identified in the listing but few details have been compiled on these and no estimates have been made on specific future demand for burial in Māori urupa.

Whangarei District demographics and demands

Based on Statistics New Zealand projections (2001-2026), Whangarei District's population is anticipated to grow from an estimated 70,100 in 2001 to 79,700 in 2026 based on the medium projection. This represents an increase of 9,600 or 14% over the 2001 census figure. Much of this expected growth is expected to occur in the coastal areas of Bream Bay, Tutukaka/ Ngunguru/ Matapouri, Pataua, Parua Bay and Oakura and in the rural areas surrounding the urban area of Whangarei city.

The high growth forecast predicts a 2026 population of some 82,000 people or a 17% increase on the base population of 2001. This projection has been used to identify varying growth rates across the District with the following table indicating likely changes. Note this projection used a different 2001 base population than the medium projection. However for the purposes of this assessment the difference is not material.

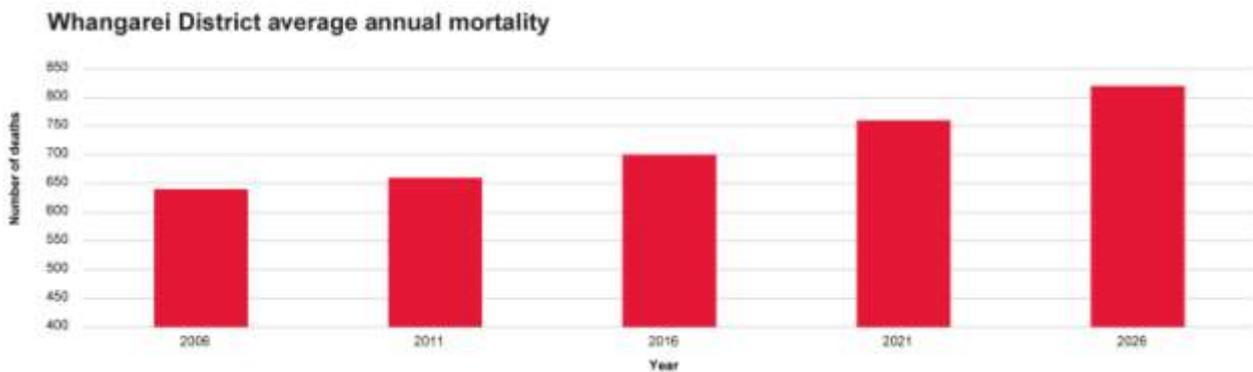
District population projections and distribution				
Location	2006	2026	Increase	% Increase
Central	42,272	44,682	2,410	5.7%
Northern	16,692	20,689	3,997	24%

Southern	12,664	16,545	3,881	31%
Total	71,628	81,916	10,288	14%

This clearly shows the greatest percentage population increase is expected to occur in the southern area, with an overall increase of some 3,900 people or almost one third more people in the area. This is in contrast to a relatively modest increase of 6% in the central area and 24% in the northern area.

The projected mortalities are a more directly relevant demographic in the context of this assessment. The 5 year mortality total for the District for the period 2001- 2006 is estimated to be 3,200, against 4,100 over the period 2021-2026. This represents a 28% increase in total deaths. The increase in mortality is twice that of the population growth over the 25 year period. These mortality figures are not able to be presented by area, however there is expected to be a reasonable relationship between the population increase by area and the respective mortality in that area.

The following figure has taken these projections and converted them into the average annual total deaths for five, 5-year blocks. This shows current annual mortality at around 640, rising to 820 in 2026.



This increase in mortality does not reflect a population with falling health as the median population age is expected to increase from 39 years in 2006 to 46 years in 2026. Rather it is indicative of the numbers in the 65+ age bracket increasing from 11,000 in 2006 to 20,100 in 2026 which is an 83% increase.

The following table summarises historical burials and cremations from within the District and provides some projections for future demands. The burials only relate to the Maunu, Kamo and Onerahi Cemeteries and the Maunu Crematorium.

	2002-2004 3-year average	% Increase in deaths 2006 to 2026	% Cremations versus burials	2026 Estimate
Cremations	395	28%	80 %	570
Burials	129			100
Totals	524	670		670

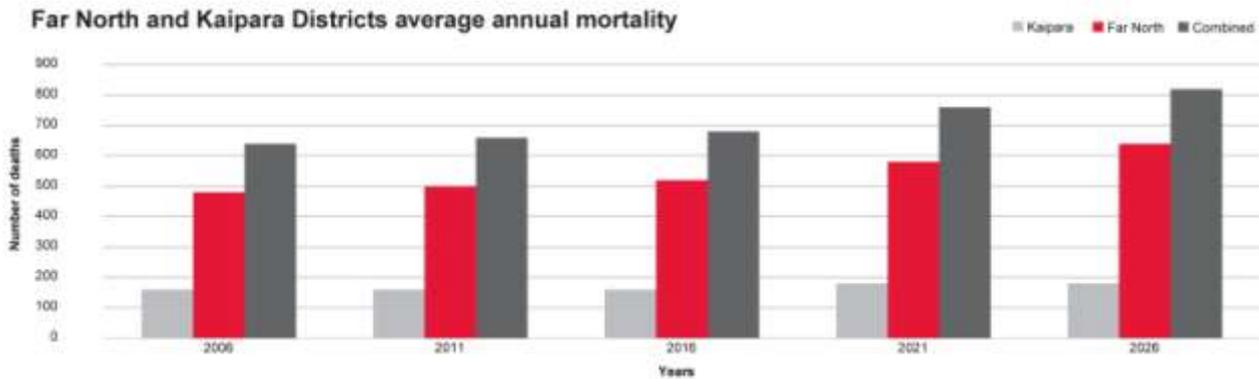
The number of deaths in Whangarei District for 2004 was 581(Statistics NZ) and there were 516 burials and cremations at Council operated facilities. Therefore there are a number of residents who were buried in the community cemeteries or out of the District. Based on information from the largest local firm of funeral directors the numbers buried in the community cemeteries is likely to be around 50, which indicated possibly 10 -20 buried or cremated out of the District. Discussions with the trustees of the two larger community cemeteries at Kaurihohore and Waipu indicate average number of burials per year at 30 and 10 respectively. These numbers did include some ash burials.

The percentage of cremations versus burials is projected to increase from the current level of 75% to a future level approaching 80%. This is based on discussions with Dennis Nelson (former WDC Cemetery Manager) and Lloyd Morris Funeral Director of Morris and Morris.

Kaipara and Far North district demands

Both the neighbouring districts have a range of cemeteries and Far North has one privately owned and operated crematorium located on the outskirts of Kerikeri. The majority of cremations of those dying in the Kaipara District are undertaken at the Maunu Crematorium with a limited number going south to the crematorium at Schnapper Rock Rd, Albany. With regard to the Far North, the choice of the Maunu Crematorium is largely based on the lower price of Council operated facility. This may change in the future, which will have an impact on the number of out of district cremations from the Far North.

The figure below summarises the Statistics NZ projections for mortalities in these two districts.



The expected average annual number of deaths Kaipara in 2006 is estimated to be 160 rising to 180 in 2026, whereas in the Far North the corresponding figures are 480 and 640 respectively. This represents a 12.5% increase for Kaipara and a 33% increase for Far North.

Total demand for services

This projected demand has been estimated from existing demand adjusted by the expected increase in mortality over the next 20 years from within the Whangarei District and the out of District cremations from Kaipara and Far North. The following table summarises the total projected demand for burial plots for each of the 5 year blocks from 2006 to 2026. These figures are based on an assumption of a future mix of 80% cremations and 20% full burials.

Summary of burial and cremation projections							
		2001-06	2006-11	2011-16	2016-21	2021-26	Total 2006-26
In District	Burials (WDC)	643	646	652	661	670	2,629
	Burials (community)	250	250	250	250	250	1,000
	Total burials	893	896	902	911	920	3,629
	Cremations	1,975	2,053	2,210	2,446	2,681	9,390
Out of District	Cremations	350	395	426	458	490	1,769
Total	Total cremations	2,325	2,448	2,636	2,904	3,171	11,159

This table indicates a demand for approximately 2,630 plots in Council operated cemeteries and 1,000 in community owned cemeteries over the 20 year period. The two most commonly used community cemeteries located at Kauri and Waipu have sufficient capacity (based on current demand) for the next 20 years. As earlier indicated the only Council operated cemetery with significant capacity is the Maunu Cemetery which has sufficient area (subject to further development) far in excess of the 20 year projections above.

However, thus whilst the Maunu cemetery is located centrally within the District, there is expected to be significant demand for burial plots in the Bream Bay area as the population there increases and the consequential increase in the numbers of deaths.

Options to meet the demand

The demands for burial plots from the central and northern areas are proposed to be met using the Maunu, Onerahi and Ketenikau cemeteries, together with the relevant community cemeteries.

Total demand for Council operated cemeteries is projected to increase slightly from approximately 130 per year to 135 per year. As with cremations this is dependent on a number of factors including:

- mortality rates
- population growth rates
- age distributions
- preference ratio of cremation over burials
- availability of community cemeteries.

A more conservative approach would assume that the current demand of around 130 per year would increase over the 20 year forecast, based on the increase of the total number of deaths and the current burial percentage of 25%. This would indicate an increase to around 170 burials per year at Council cemeteries in 20 years time. This approach has been used in the options analysis that follows.

Option 1 – Utilise existing cemeteries

This option is based on using only the existing cemeteries. There are currently three cemeteries operated by Council that have capacity for burials (Ketenikau (Kamo), Onerahi and Maunu). The community cemeteries are assumed to operate at current levels of around 50 per year.

The Ketenikau Cemetery has very limited capacity and currently only 1-2 burials are undertaken per year. There are estimated to be 60-80 plots available, with a number of these reserved as family plots. The land is not well suited for a cemetery as the rocky ground makes grave digging very hard and expensive.

The Onerahi Cemetery has no new plots available for full burials. Capacity does however remains for ashes interments in both existing plots and new plots.

The Maunu Cemetery has a total land area of some 31 hectares, with approximately 7 hectares currently utilised for burial plots, roadways, buildings and the crematorium. The remaining 24 hectares is currently in farm land and native bush. To extend the existing cemetery area will require some limited vegetation clearing, earthworks, drainage, access roading, berm formation and stormwater detention ponds.

Conventional burial sites are laid out on berms 1.2 metres wide and 3 metres deep. This provides for typically 16 plots per berm. Based on a typical berm layout, with provision for planting, access and limited parking a gross allowance of some 10-12 m² per plot is required.

Using the more conservative demand for plots in Council operated cemeteries as above of 170 in 2026, the following table sets out the demands at the three Council operated cemeteries.

Projected five-yearly demand for cemetery plots (Council operated)				
	Maunu	Onerahi	Ketenikau	Total
2006-2011	595	60	10	665
2011-2016	640	60	10	710
2016-2021	765		10	775
2021-2026	840		10	850

Totals	2,840	120	40	3,000
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This option would require an additional 2,840 plots at Maunu with a requirement for an additional area of 3.4 ha (2,840 lots at 12m² per lot) to be developed over the 20 year projection period. There is adequate land within the undeveloped area of 24 ha, to undertake the extension of the existing cemetery area.

Option 2 – additional Council operated cemetery in Bream Bay

This option provides for an additional cemetery in the Bream Bay area to meet the expected demand for a suitably sized and located cemetery in the southern part of the District. As indicated under option 1 above, the Maunu cemetery once the remaining capacity at Onerahi Cemetery is used will effectively be the only significant Council operated cemetery operating.

The growth in the southern area is made up of Bream Bay and the rural area to the west towards the boundary with the Kaipara District. Most of the growth is expected to occur within Bream Bay which consists of One Tree Point, Marsden Bay, Marsden Point, Ruakaka, Waipu, Waipu Cove, and Langs Beach. The southern area is expected to increase its population by some 33% over the 20 year forecast period to some 16,000 people. This is twice the expected District growth rate of approximately 15%. At the end of the forecast period it is estimated that 20% of the population will live in the southern area, against the current 17%. These estimates could be seen as on the conservative side as recently granted subdivision consents have greatly increased the number of lots available for development in the area.

Assuming that 20% of the District population will be living in this area around 2026, it is estimated that the area will demand a similar percentage of the total demand for burial space. On a simplified basis applying this 20% share over the period of 2006-2026, would indicate a demand for 725 plots (20% of 3,629). On an annual basis this would be say 35 plots per year.

To provide for a minimum of 50 years capacity, would require suitable land to accommodate 35 plots per year over 50 years with an area of 12 m² per plot giving a total area of 2.1 ha. Additional provision would be required for parking, accessory buildings as well as areas of gardens and tree planting. A suitable buffer strip would also be required around the site to provide separation from adjacent land uses. This might be some 20 metres on side, rear and frontage boundaries giving a total minimum area of 2.4 ha. The actual area required to be purchased will be dependent on available land which is suitable for development as a cemetery.

Site suitability will be dependent on at least the following factors:

- good drainage and low winter water table
- soils that will maintain stable during excavation
- land free from effects of flooding and coastal erosion
- ground not prone to slippage or erosion
- has appropriate land use zoning or capable of being designated for use as a cemetery
- is reasonably separated from residential, and industrial land use
- reasonable road access.

Assessment of the suitability of the options

The following table sets out the options and a brief analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option1 Operate three existing cemeteries District-wide.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council cemeteries are in place and meeting needs of the central and northern area. • Cemeteries generally centrally locate. • Maunu cemetery has land area to meet foreseeable future demands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack cemetery in southern area with high future demand.

<p>Option 2</p> <p>Existing cemeteries for North and Central and Council Cemetery for Southern area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council cemeteries are in place and meeting needs of the central and northern area. • Maunu cemetery has land area to meet foreseeable future demands. • Can provide a Council cemetery to meet next 50 years demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of buying suitable land, designation and development of site. • Delays in providing a cemetery in the southern area.
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District Council's role and proposals in meeting demand

This section sets out Council's proposed role in the provision of cemetery facilities and approaches for meeting future demand.

Role regarding Council operated facilities

Council's intended role in relation to Council-operated facilities will be:

1. to operate Onerahi and Ketenikau cemeteries on a limited basis until such time as available plots are used and then maintain as closed facilities
2. to continue to maintain, operate and develop the Maunu Cemetery as the main cemetery for the whole District and the central and northern areas in particular
3. to purchase suitable land and develop a new cemetery facility in the Bream Bay area to serve the southern part of the District
4. to maintain closed cemeteries to meet the relevant requirements of the Burials and Cremations Act 1964.

Role regarding community operated cemeteries

Council's intended role in relation to community cemeteries will be:

1. to maintain a record of cemeteries owned or managed by cemeteries boards or committees and the contact person details
2. to provide advice to cemetery trust/ committee secretaries regarding the maintenance of burial records
3. to liaise with the cemetery trustees regarding capacity and demand for plots in the community cemeteries.

Meeting demand

Demand will be managed and budgeted for through the development of the Parks and Recreation Activity Management Plan in conjunction with the associated Long Term Plan.

Protection of public health

The proposals have been developed to ensure that there will be adequate capacity to meet the demand for cemetery facilities in the District.

The long term protection of public health will be a key element in the selection of a new cemetery site in the Bream Bay area. The site selection process, as earlier noted, will include criteria such as drainage, protection of the water table and protection from inundation. These factors are important to ensure that the operation of a cemetery does not have adverse effects on the environment and on public health.

Public health or environmental threats can be minimised by appropriate burial and management practices, provision of suitable buffers zones of planting on the boundaries water quality treatment ponds and restricting burial depths at least one metre above the permanent water table.