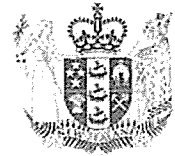


Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall

Minister for Food Safety
Minister for Seniors
Associate Minister of Health
Associate Minister of Research, Science and Innovation



21 JUN 2021

Mary Richardson
General Manager, Citizens & Community
Christchurch City Council
mary.richardson@ccc.govt.nz

Ref. AV1161-2021

Tēnā koe Mary Richardson

Avonhead Park Cemetery name change

Thank you for your letter of 17 March 2021 seeking my approval of the name change of Avonhead Park Cemetery to Avonhead Memorial Cemetery.

I recognise the wider significance of the Cemetery as the interment site of the unidentified victims of the 22 February 2011 Christchurch Earthquake, and wish to thank you for your efforts in engaging and consulting with the local community regarding this change.

I appreciate the further information you provided, outlining the background to this request and the consultation undertaken by Christchurch City Council. I am advised that appropriate consultation has been undertaken. Consultation requires that views are sought and properly considered, and your report indicates that this has been done, taking into account the Significance and Engagement Policy.

Even though there were more supporters for not changing the Cemetery's name, the numbers were close. As advised in the information you provided, the consultation process was sufficient in the circumstances, and the Council's decision need not equate with the majority view, as set out in the Local Government Act 2002.

I have considered the information you have provided and note the value in underlining the Cemetery's status as a unique local landmark. Therefore, in accordance with section 7(2) of the Burial and Cremation Act 1964, I approve the request for change of name from Avonhead Park Cemetery to Avonhead Memorial Cemetery.

Thank you again for writing, and I wish you all the best.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ayesha Verrall'.

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Associate Minister of Health