



# Cemetery Strategy 2020 – 2039







# Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>1. Introduction</b>   | <b>2</b>  |
| 1.1 Strategy objectives  | 3         |
| 1.2 Regulatory framework   | 3         |
| 1.3 Community outcomes   | 3         |
| 1.4 Waimakariri District Council bylaws and policies   | 3         |
| <b>2. Cemeteries in the Waimakariri District</b>   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>3. Cemetery Management in the Waimakariri District</b>  | <b>6</b>  |
| 3.1 Meeting burial demands   | 6         |
| 3.2 Changing needs of the community  | 9         |
| 3.3 Looking after what we have got   | 9         |
| 3.4 Services cemeteries  | 9         |
| 3.5 Funding of cemeteries  | 9         |
| 3.6 Challenges for cemetery management in the District   | 10        |
| Available land to meet burial demands  | 10        |
| Reservation of plots   | 10        |
| Cultural diversity   | 10        |
| Ceding of cemeteries to Council  | 11        |
| Pet cemeteries   | 11        |
| <b>4. Objectives, policies and actions for management of cemeteries</b>  | <b>12</b> |
| Objective 1: Council cemeteries meet growth demands and community expectations   | 12        |
| Actions  | 12        |
| Objective 2: Cemeteries are designed effectively, are safe and comply with the requirements of relevant legislation                      | 13        |
| Actions  | 13        |
| Objective 3: Up-to-date (record) information regarding Council managed cemeteries is readily available in a range of sources and formats | 15        |
| Actions  | 15        |
| Objective 4: Clear direction for Council staff and the community regarding the use and management of cemeteries is provided              | 15        |
| Actions  | 15        |
| <b>5. Monitoring and review</b>  | <b>16</b> |
| <b>6. Appendices</b>   | <b>17</b> |
| 6.1 Waimakariri District Council Cemeteries  | 17        |
| 6.2 Cemetery Strategy Projections  | 22        |
| Burial statistics  | 22        |
| 6.3 Legislative framework  | 23        |
| 6.4 Burial traditions  | 23        |
| Religious affiliation demographics   | 25        |

# 1. Introduction

***Cemeteries play an important role in our society. They support our sense of community and reflect the history of local people and cultures that founded and influenced our District.***

Cemeteries provide a place where family and friends can mourn the loss of loved ones consistent with their culture and beliefs.

The Waimakariri District Council manages seven cemeteries. The cemeteries are well maintained so they are peaceful places for family and friends and are open to visitors 365 days a year during daylight hours. The Council cemeteries are available to all persons, not just residents of the District. The Kaiapoi Public Cemetery and Rangiora Lawn Cemetery include Services Cemeteries providing for service personnel. New Zealand has specifically designated areas within public cemeteries, and stand-alone individual cemeteries, for the interment of veterans, irrespective of whether death was due to service or natural causes. These are called Services Cemeteries.

In the Waimakariri District there are three urupa and 15 privately owned (Church) cemeteries. Urupa reservations have special status in legal terms as well as having family, spiritual, cultural and historical importance. The Burial and Cremation Act 1964 does not apply to urupa, s338 of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 continues as the legislative control.

At the time of writing there are three funeral homes in the District and one privately owned crematorium.



***Kaiapoi Public Cemetery***



## 1.1 Strategy objectives

The objectives of this Cemetery Strategy are to:

- Provide Council cemeteries that meet growth demands and community expectations;
- Ensure cemeteries are designed effectively, are safe and comply with the requirements of relevant legislation;
- Ensure up-to-date information regarding Council managed cemeteries is readily available in a range of sources and formats;
- Provide clear direction for Council staff and the community regarding the use and management of cemeteries.

## 1.2 Regulatory framework

There are a number of Acts and regulations providing the legal framework for the provision, use and management of cemeteries.

A list of the key Acts and regulations are outlined below, see Appendix 3 for a summary of how each Act applies to Local Government.

*Burial and Cremation Act 1964*

*Reserves Act 1977*

*Health Act 1956*

*Local Government Act 2002*

*Resource Management Act 1991*

There are also three regulations that cover cremations and burials:

*Burial and Cremation (Removal of Monuments and Tablets) Regulations 1967*

*Cremation Regulations 1973*

*Health (Burial) Regulations 1946*

## 1.3 Community outcomes

The Waimakariri District Council's vision is: 'to make Waimakariri a great place to be, in partnership with our Communities guided by our outcomes, through the following roles:

As a service provider;

As a funder of activities by others;

As an advocate on behalf of our community;

As a regulator under legislation.

The community outcomes directly and indirectly relevant to the management of cemeteries are as follows:

### **Governance**

- a. Effect is given to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi
- b. There are wide ranging opportunities for people to contribute to the decision making that effects our District

### **Environment**

- c. There is a safe environment for all
- d. There is a healthy and sustainable environment for all

### **Places and spaces**

- f. The community's cultures, art and heritage are conserved and celebrated
- g. Public spaces and facilities are plentiful, accessible and high quality
- i. People are friendly and caring, creating a strong sense of community in our District

## 1.4 Waimakariri District Council bylaws and policies

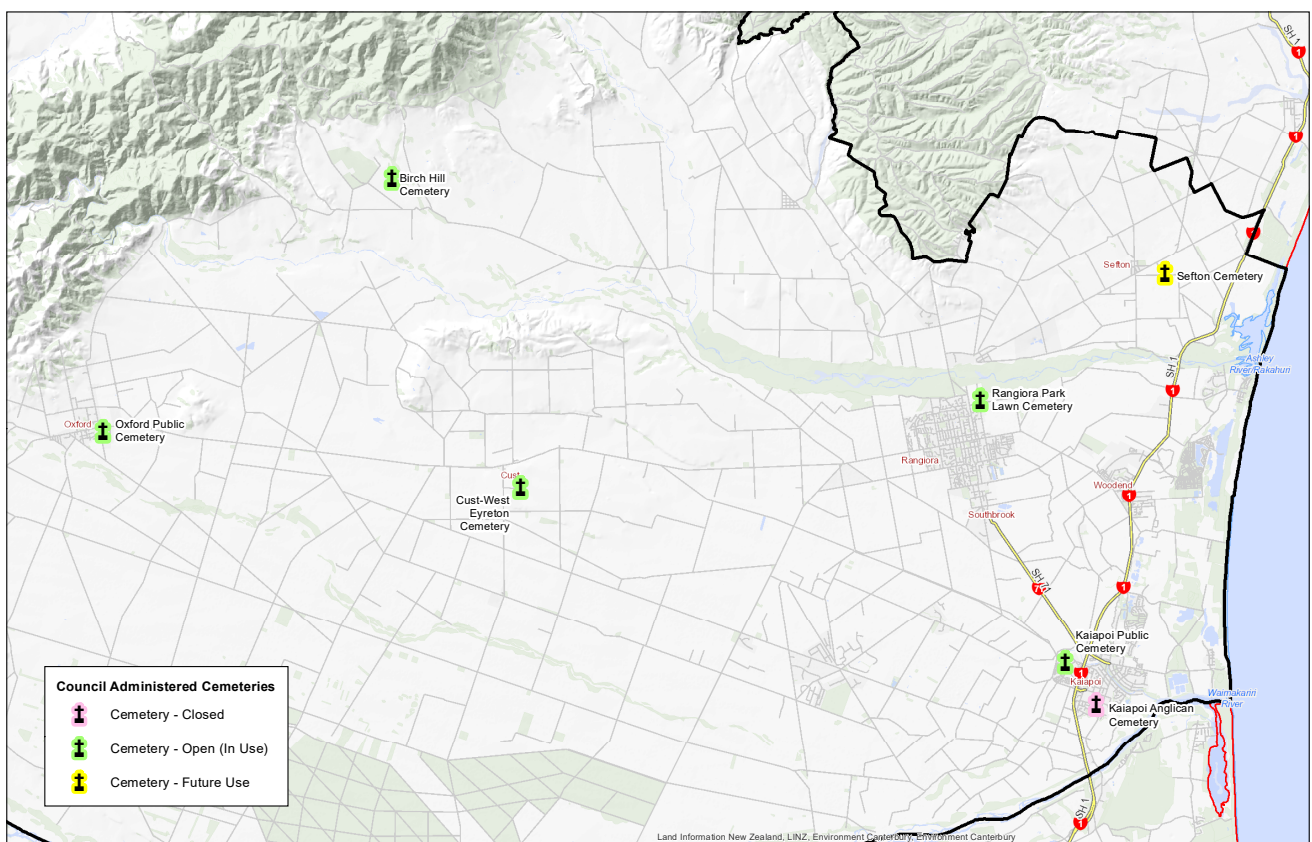
Dog Control Bylaw 2019, Section 15, First Schedule, Cemeteries - Prohibited Areas

Waimakariri District Council, Cemetery Policy (to be developed).

# 2. Cemeteries in the Waimakariri District

The Waimakariri District Council is responsible for seven cemeteries in the District.

The location of the cemeteries is illustrated on the map below. Detail about each of these cemeteries can be found in Appendix 1.



0 5 10 km

Waimakariri District Cemeteries

Job Ref: 20-028 Date: 29/06/2020





### **There are two types of cemeteries in the District:**

Most cemeteries provide for burials and interment of ashes. Two cemeteries set aside an area specifically for burial of veterans with qualifying service.

A number of urupa and privately (Church/trust) managed cemeteries also exist in the Waimakariri District. The Council is not involved in the function of these and they are not covered by this Strategy.



**Rangiora Lawn Cemetery**

**Lawn cemeteries** – this style involves a concrete strip with plaques affixed horizontally onto the concrete strip. The area between strips is grass.



**Oxford Public Cemetery**

**Monumental cemeteries** – these are older style containing a concrete surround and cover on the grave site. The headstones vary in size, form and style.



# 3. Cemetery Management in the Waimakariri District

*The Waimakariri District is growing and changing with increasing ethnic and religious diversity. It is important the provision and management of cemeteries in the District meets the demands and needs of the community into the future.*



## 3.1 Meeting burial demands

The Waimakariri District has an aging population but this does not necessarily mean an increase in demand for cemetery space within the District. Over the last five years an average of 65% of deaths per annum in the District were not interred in Council managed cemeteries. Over the same period an average of 23% of interments in Council managed cemeteries were of people who had died outside of the District.

Over the last five years the ratio of burial to ashes interment has been consistent with an average of 58% of interments being ashes and 42% coffin burials.

The population of Waimakariri District is estimated to have increased by 6,400 people

between 2015 and 2019 (Stats NZ population estimates as at 30 June each year). The proportion of deaths to population in the District is consistently 0.7% annually (excluding 2017 at 0.6%). The population of the District is aging resulting in a modest increase in deaths over the last five years. This trend is likely to continue with 20% of the population currently aged over 65 years and this age group estimated to be 30% of the District population by the year 2038.

There are currently 384 burial plots and 366 ashes plots available, and for approximately another 774 burial plots and 5,698 ashes plots on 'additional' land identified for cemetery use. Some existing cemeteries have limited capacity, while others have plenty of space available.



| Cemetery  | Available plots               | Reserved plots   | Estimated additional development land                    |
|---|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Birch Hill Cemetery<br>130 Garry River Road, Glentui  | No ashes option<br>33 burial  | 75 burial  | Nil  |
| Cust-West Eyreton Cemetery<br>398 Earlys Road, Cust   | 13 ashes<br>26 burial         | 6 ashes<br>53 burial                                   | 31,800 m2  |
| Oxford Public Cemetery<br>Oxford Road, Oxford   | 147 ashes<br>125 burial       | 26 ashes<br>124 burial                                 | 18,000 m2  |
| Kaiapoi Anglican Cemetery<br>Parnham Lane, Vickery Street and<br>Isaac Wilson Road, Kaiapoi | Closed, no plots<br>available | Nil  | Nil  |
| Kaiapoi Public Cemetery<br>Cnr Adderley Terrace and Island<br>Road, Kaiapoi                 | 116 ashes<br>177 burial       | 153 ashes<br>309 burial<br>5 RSA ashes<br>3 RSA graves | 3,743 m2<br>Subject to flooding and<br>high water table. |
| Rangiora Park Lawn Cemetery<br>Cnr of East Belt and Coldstream<br>Road, Rangiora            | 40 ashes<br>23 burial         | 253 ashes<br>520 burial                                | 11,000 m2  |
| Sefton Cemetery Reserve<br>198 Factory Road, Sefton   |                               |  | 40,703 m2  |

The following diagram shows the methodology employed to calculate the projected need for burial land in the Waimakariri District. Statistics New Zealand provides projected death numbers in five year increments (2018 through to 2038).

The number of interments in Council managed cemeteries is calculated using an average of the five years 2015-2019. Similarly the interments for 'out of District' deaths is calculated using the average in the same period. This gives a total of the projected interments in Council managed cemeteries in five year increments (2018, 2023, 2028, 2033 and 2038).

For the five years 2018-2023

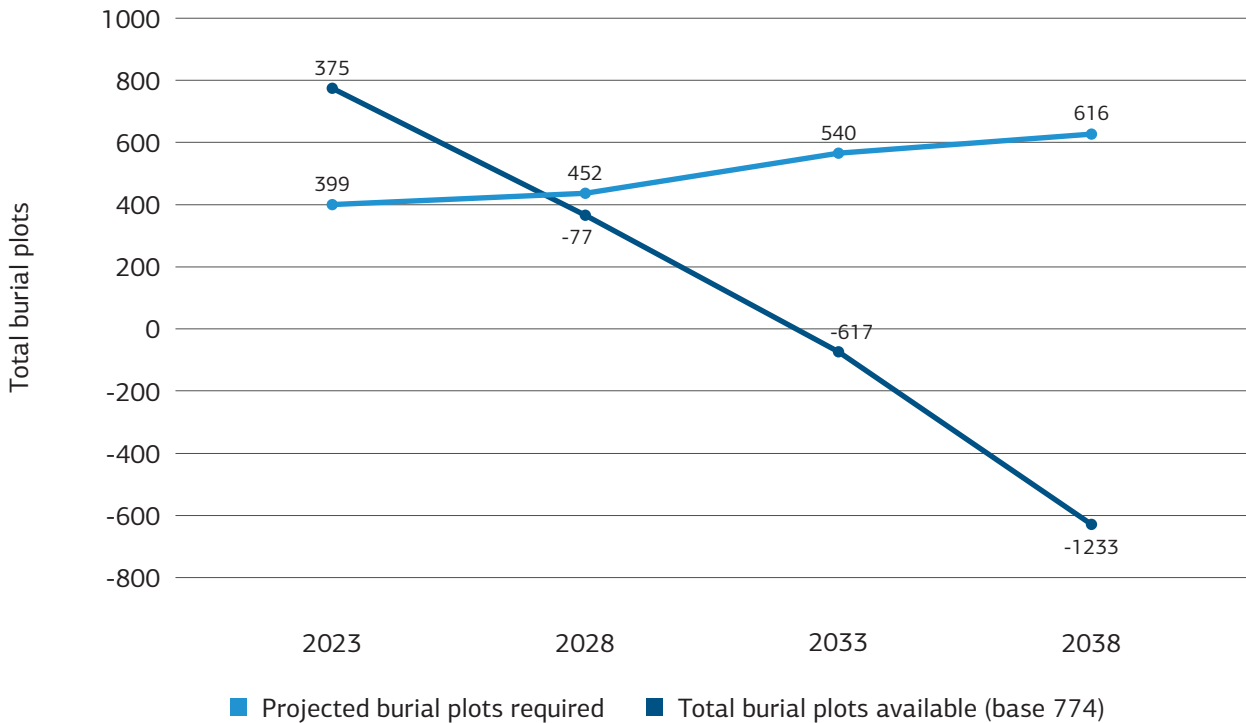
Total deaths projected (Stats NZ) – (Death in District interments + Death out of District interments (Council records)) = Total projected interments for the five years to 2023

$$2,200 - (770 + 177) = 947$$

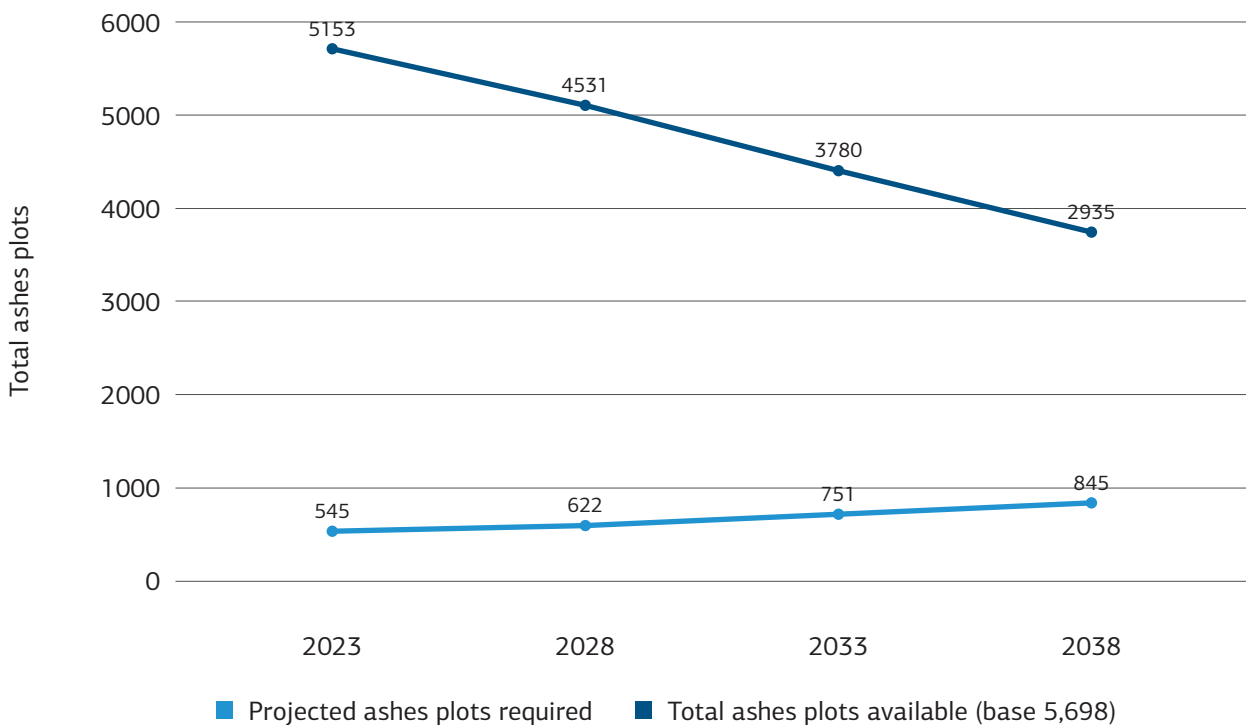
Of the 947 interments it is anticipated that 549 (58%) will be ashes and 398 (42%) coffin burials.

The following graphs show the projected<sup>3</sup> requirements for cemetery land for casket burials and ashes interment out to the year 2038. By 2028 this suggest more land will need to have been developed for casket burials to accommodate demand.

### Projected burial requirements



### Projected ashes requirements



<sup>3</sup> Projections should be used as an indication of an overall trend, rather than an exact forecast. These projections will be updated annually as real time data is incorporated.



### 3.2 Changing needs of the community

The Waimakariri community is becoming more diverse with an increase in people from other countries making their home in the District. Statistics New Zealand (Stats NZ) reports an increase across all ethnicities between the 2013 and 2018 Census. Of particular note is the increase in people from the Philippines, China, India, Samoa and the wider Pacific. The number of people from Europe has also increased, the majority from the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Most people that responded to religious faith in the census affiliate with Christian religions in this District. This is declining though with 36% of the population indicating Christianity as their religion in 2018 compared with 54% in 2006. Other religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Spiritualism and New Age Religions attract less than 1.0% each of the District's population. These religions are seeing a slight increase in numbers since 2006 Census. Funeral traditions vary for these religions, a summary is provided in Appendix 4.

The number of people in the Waimakariri District who, in the Census, indicated they do not identify with a religion has increased from 35.3% in 2006, 43.8% in 2013 and 53.9% in 2018<sup>4</sup>.

The Council does its best to accommodate cultural and religious needs of the deceased and their families. The Council has Services Cemeteries at the Kaiapoi Public Cemetery and the Rangiora Lawn Cemetery.

There is one private crematorium in the Waimakariri District. The Council does not intend to develop crematoria, these would need to be developed privately if the demand arises.

### 3.3 Looking after what we have got

Cemeteries play an important role in our society, they support our sense of community, reflect the history of local people and cultures that founded and influenced the District. They provide a place where family and friends can remember and mourn the loss of loved ones consistent with their culture and beliefs.

It is important we maintain cemeteries and provide facilities and information recognising the role cemeteries play in our communities.

#### **Assisting with cemetery planning and management, in addition to the Council, are:**

- Funeral Directors who co-ordinate and manage the information required for a burial or interment to occur.
- Monumental Masons work with Council regarding permits to erect memorials on plots and undertake erection of memorials once they have been approved.

### 3.4 Services Cemeteries

Interment in a services cemetery requires the deceased to have had Operational Service as defined in the *Burial and Cremation Act 1964*, or be the spouse of someone who has had Operational Service.

Eligibility to be buried in a Services Cemetery needs to be confirmed by the local authority that manages the cemetery. Most Councils require that the veteran with Operational Service is interred first.

### 3.5 Funding of cemeteries

The provision of cemeteries has a mix of individual and community benefits.

#### **Individual benefits:**

- Place for the burial of bodies
- Maintaining a place for friends and relatives to visit
- Information on genealogy

#### **Community benefits:**

- Maintaining a green space
- Health
- Cultural significance

Funding is a combination of user fees and general rates.

The cost of interment is covered by charging a fee for each burial. The fee covers contractor's cost to prepare the grave, attendance during the burial and closing the grave.

<sup>4</sup> Statistics New Zealand Census Data (NZStat: 2018 Census, Ethnicity, culture and identity, Religious Affiliation)

A record fee is charged at the time of each plot purchase to cover the administrative cost of record keeping and liaising with the contractor at the time of burial.

Plot purchase fees are paid at the time a plot is reserved, this is generally at the time of burial, although plots (particularly ashes plots) can be pre-purchased as part of estate planning.

There is currently no fee for a memorial permit.

Cemetery maintenance costs are funded by the Uniform Annual General Charge. A fixed rate on all rateable property in the District.

A grant is received each year from Veterans Affairs towards the cost of maintenance of the Services Cemeteries.

### 3.6 Challenges for cemetery management in the District

#### Available land to meet burial demands

Across the District there are currently 384 burial plots and 366 ashes plots available, and for approximately another 774 burial plots and 5,698 ashes plots on 'additional' land identified for cemetery use. Some cemeteries have limited capacity due to the lack of available and suitable additional land whereas others have plenty of space.

The cemetery land available adjacent to the Kaiapoi Public Cemetery is of particular concern with 3,743m<sup>2</sup> unused land that is subject to flooding and a high water table rendering it unsuitable for casket burial or ashes interment without considerable remedial work.

Land to the east of the District is constrained for cemetery use, particularly for burials, because of the potential for liquefaction and a high water table. However, an area of regeneration land in Kaiapoi has been identified as suitable for a memorial wall and ashes interment to be developed when required.

The Rangiora Cemetery has additional land available that is suitable for both ashes and casket burial but is not geologically suitable for double depth casket interment. Similarly the land at Birch Hill Cemetery is not suitable for double depth casket interment.

The Sefton Cemetery Reserve offers 40,703m<sup>2</sup> of additional grassland reserve available to be developed in the future.

As the population grows, particularly in the north east of the District around Pegasus and Woodend, projected to be over 12,000 residents by the year 2048, consideration could be given to development of cemetery land in this area as the need arises.

#### Reservation of plots

The pre-purchase (reservation) of cemetery plots (both ashes and burial) has been available for many years. The following table shows the distribution of the reserved plots by cemetery:

| Cemetery                | Ashes | Burial |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|
| Rangiora Lawn Cemetery  | 253   | 520    |
| Birch Hill Cemetery     | 0     | 75     |
| Cust Cemetery           | 6     | 53     |
| Oxford Cemetery         | 26    | 124    |
| Kaiapoi Public Cemetery | 153   | 309    |
| Kaiapoi Services Area   | 5     | 3      |
| Total reserved plots    | 443   | 1,084  |

Figure 2: Reserved plots in District cemeteries

The reserving of plots means that although a number of cemeteries appear to have space for interments in reality they don't. Ashes berms are created because of demand and almost immediately are 'full' because of pre-purchasing necessitating the development of another berm to accommodate current requests.

#### Cultural diversity

The Waimakariri community is growing and with this growth has come more cultural diversity and diversity in religious affiliation. The 2018 Census<sup>5</sup> also shows more people in this District who do not affiliate with any religion. The 2018 Census also shows that of the 22,917 people (39% of the total population) indicating at least one religious affiliation, 93 percent associate with a

<sup>5</sup> Religious Affiliation 2018 Census Statistics NZ ([http://nzdotstat.stats.govt.nz/wbos/index.aspx?\\_ga=2.32506494.1584617460.1592356951-447935508.1561323045](http://nzdotstat.stats.govt.nz/wbos/index.aspx?_ga=2.32506494.1584617460.1592356951-447935508.1561323045))

Christian religion. The number of people identifying with 'other' religions in the District has increased from 318 people in 2001 to 759 people in 2018. Refer to Appendix 4 for a summary of burial traditions and demographics of religious affiliation.

The burial practices and ceremonies of all religions, beliefs and philosophies will need to be taken into account as the development and management of cemeteries in this District is considered.

### ***Ceding of cemeteries to Council***

Cemeteries are a part of the historical and cultural environment of the District. Many of the older cemeteries are managed by private organisations such as Churches or trusts. As time has gone by the number of parishioners and/or trustees have dropped and the management of these cemeteries has become onerous or they have fallen into disrepair.

Council has been, and continues to be, requested to take over cemeteries that can no longer be managed effectively by the founding organisation. Often these cemeteries do not come with any funding for repair or ongoing maintenance, or complete records, and on ceding to Council these costs become an imposition on ratepayers.

Currently Council does not have any legal responsibility to take over these cemeteries and considers them on a case-by-case basis taking into account the historical significance, community views and associated costs.

### ***Pet cemeteries/memorials***

In the Waimakariri District there is a pet cremation service but no privately owned pet cemeteries available. To date the Council does not have any areas set aside for pets to be interred.

Most Councils generally do not provide any areas for pet interments either associated with human cemeteries or stand alone.

The Law Commission, in its preliminary findings and recommendations for the review of the Burial and Cremation Act 1964, noted that: "*Most local authorities sought some policy*

*guidance on the acceptability of interring animal remains in public cemeteries. Although this issue has been raised in several survey responses, it is peripheral to the core subject matter of this review. We consider that the legislation should remain silent concerning the burial of animal remains, or ashes. Cemetery managers who wish to allow animal interments may do so, and may of course control the burial of animals through bylaws or policies.*"<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Chapter 4: Burial in New Zealand today: an overview of the current practice 4.55.



# 4. Objectives, policies and actions for management of cemeteries



***These objectives, policies and actions guide decisions about the development, management and operation of cemeteries in the Waimakariri District.***

## **Objective 1: Council cemeteries meet growth demands and community expectations**

Responding to the challenges of meeting growth demands and the changing expectations of communities. The Waimakariri District is growing and changing. Understanding capacity and constraints at existing cemeteries enables Council to proactively develop or purchase new cemetery land.

- Plan and manage for the expansion or closure of existing cemeteries and the provision of new cemeteries based on burial rate projections.
- Consider the further development and use of cemetery land in the light of climate change and natural hazard identification.
- Provide interment areas that meet the changing expectations of the community.
- Prepare for potential ceding of cemeteries to Council care considering management requirements and costs.

## **Actions**

Implement staged expansion of cemeteries subject to updated projection information, sustainability, climate change and natural hazard identification.

Review the cemetery strategy on a five yearly basis including reviewing the cemetery projections and community expectations.

Provide a range of interment and memorialisation options.

Review requests and annually check changing trends in community needs and determine whether changes are required to existing management of cemeteries.

Review with incumbent contractor any issues or concerns regarding interments and/or maintenance.

Review fees and charges at least every three years to align with long term planning.

Ensure the Cemetery Policy includes provision for assessing any proposal to surrender a cemetery to Council for ongoing management.

## **Objective 2: Cemeteries are designed effectively, are safe and comply with the requirements of relevant legislation**

Ensures cemeteries under Council management are well looked after and supports day to day operation.

- Manage cemeteries in the Waimakariri District in accordance with the requirements of relevant legislation, particularly the Burial and Cremation Act 1964 and Reserves Act 1977.
- Ensure all proposed facilities meet best practice accessible and safe design standards.
- Maintain cemeteries to the Council service levels expected by the community.
- Create reflective cemetery environments when developing new areas for burial.

## **Actions**

Undertake ongoing improvements to cemetery facilities such as signs, seats and fences.

Maintain operating procedures to guide the day to day management of cemeteries.

Audit contractor performance on cemeteries regularly to ensure quality maintenance.

Develop a sustainable work programme to address community expectations.







In Loving Memory of  
**JAMES McLAUGHLAN**  
WHO WAS ACCIDENTALLY DROWNED  
APRIL 19th 1895, AGED 59.  
  
**MISS ANN**  
WIFE OF ABOVE  
DIED AUG 5th 1915,  
AGED 87.  
  
Rest Perfect Rest.

MISS ANN McLAUGHLAN  
DIED AUG 5th 1915  
AGED 87  
REST PERFECT REST



**Objective 3: Up-to-date (record) information regarding Council managed cemeteries is readily available in a range of sources and formats**

Ensures local residents and visitors are able to find information about burials in the Council managed cemeteries and where possible any historical or retired cemeteries in the District.

- Improve access for local residents and visitors to information about cemeteries including current and historical records.

**Actions**

Make available information about cemeteries and cemetery plots online.

Ensure that, where available, records from any historical or retired cemeteries devolved to Council management are received and updated to a form that can be used by local residents and visitors.

**Objective 4: Clear direction to Council staff and the community regarding the use and management of cemeteries is provided**

Ensures essential information is available for Council staff and the community about the operation of Council managed cemeteries. Well-informed communities ensure smoother management of cemeteries.

- Improve access for the community to information about cemeteries and cemetery management.
- Ensure all information about cemeteries and cemetery processes is readily available to Council staff to facilitate interaction with funeral industry representatives, local residents and visitors.

**Actions**

Develop and maintain a Cemetery Fact Sheet which is available on the Council's website and at the Council Service Centres.

Ensure up to date information about cemetery fees and charges is available on the Council website and at Council offices.

Provide an online facility for interments including cemetery maps, application forms and fee structures.

Ensure up to date information about interment processes, including plot pre-purchase, is available on the Council website and at Council offices.

Develop a cemetery policy with the purpose of ensuring effective and consistent management of Council managed cemeteries throughout the Waimakariri District.



# 5. Monitoring and review

***The monitoring and review of this strategy will determine whether the desired outcomes are being achieved.***

Monitoring tasks will be built into the Action Plan to ensure they are funded and undertaken. The Action Plan, while a component of this strategy, is also an independent document that will be reviewed by those implementing the strategy.

Monitoring will be undertaken by a project control group consisting of the Managers of Greenspace and Customer Services and a Policy Analyst, and consists of, but not limited to:

- Reviewing the status of projects outlined in the action plan
- Updating the cemetery plot and interment statistics
- Re viewing Council service requests

- Reviewing responses to the Council's Customer Satisfaction Survey (Cemeteries)
- Updating population projections and demographics from Statistics New Zealand

The projects outlined in the action plan, where relevant, will be included in draft Annual Plans and Long Term Plans.

The strategy will be reviewed every five years. The review will take into consideration the objectives and policies of the Long Term Plan and submissions made to the Long Term and Annual Plans. An earlier review may be undertaken in response to the review of the *Burial and Cremation Act 1964* that is currently being progressed by the Ministry of Health.





# 6. Appendices

## 6.1 Waimakariri District Council Cemeteries



**Name:** Birch Hill Cemetery

**Status:** Open

**Location:** 130 Garry River Road, Glentui

**Legal Description:** LOT1 DP 10564 0.417800 Ha

**History/Background:** This small cemetery was originally semi-private for members of the family, relatives and farm hands of Birch Hill Station.

A central cairn commemorates Captain William Newton Millton who occupied the Okuku country in 1857. On the back wall are two plaques in memory of the men of Birch Hill Station who died in World War 1, and in

memory of the horses that came from the station.

From the track on the road to the cemetery, the Ford Millton home (now a private residence) can be seen.

**Area (Ha):** 0.42

**Land Status/Reserve Classification:**  
Grass – Amenity Reserve



**Name:**

Cust-West Eyreton Cemetery

**Status:** Open**Location:**

3 Crysell Avenue, Cust

**Legal Description:**

RES 742 5.129300 Ha

**History/Background:** This cemetery opened in 1880. The oak avenue was planted at the same time. The west section is Anglican and the east sections are Methodist and Presbyterian.

**Area (Ha):** 5.13**Land Status/Reserve****Classification:**

Grass - Amenity

**Name:** Oxford Public Cemetery**Status:** Open**Location:**

3117 Oxford Road, Oxford

**Legal Description:**

RES 162 4.046800 Ha

**History/Background:** The first recorded entry in the cemetery book is for 9th October 1874, however in August 1867, a meeting of residents was held to protest about the area being in a disgraceful condition. Those present subscribed £20 for a fence to be erected, and offered to undertake the necessary work. The Provincial Government offered to pay half the cost.

**Area (Ha):** 4.05**Land Status/Reserve****Classification:** Grass - Amenity





**Name:** Kaiapoi Anglican Cemetery

**Status:** Closed

**Location:** 7-11 Parnham Lane, Kaiapoi

**Legal Description:** LOT 1 DP 50353 0.031300 Ha

**History/Background:** The first Kaiapoi Cemetery was opposite the Kaiapoi Mill site, but was found to be unsuitable as a burial ground since water was met five feet below the surface, and the loose sand shifted with each nor'wester. The next site on land obtained from Dryden Sneyd, was near the electricity substation in Island Road. That site was severely affected by floods from the north branch of the Waimakariri (now the Kaiapoi River). It was decided to move the cemetery to its present site about 1865. The land already belonged to the Church Property Trustees. The new site was laid out in the same way as the old, so that persons interred in the old could be moved to the same position in the new cemetery. Friends and family of the deceased had to pay the cost of removal.

Although an Anglican Cemetery, non-conformists were not prohibited from being buried there. The cemetery received many interments because it was the burial place for all bodies on which inquests were held in the district between the Waimakariri and the Hurunui, and unfortunately there were many persons drowned before bridges were erected over

the rivers. The Coroner of the early times did not always proceed to the locality to hold the inquest, but had the bodies brought in, and the certificates for burials were usually made for the Kaiapoi Church of England Cemetery.

About 1990 the Church Property Trustees began moves to transform the older south portion of the cemetery to a passive recreational reserve and hand it over to the Waimakariri District Council. The area had become very rough and overgrown and so the remaining headstones were grouped together, the area cleared and grass sown. The whole cemetery site is now managed by the Council. The records are not complete.

**Area (Ha):** 0.03

**Land Status/Reserve Classification:**

Grass - Amenity



**Name:** Kaiapoi Public Cemetery

**Status:** Open

**Location:** Cnr Adderley Terrace and Island Road, Kaiapoi

**Legal Description:**

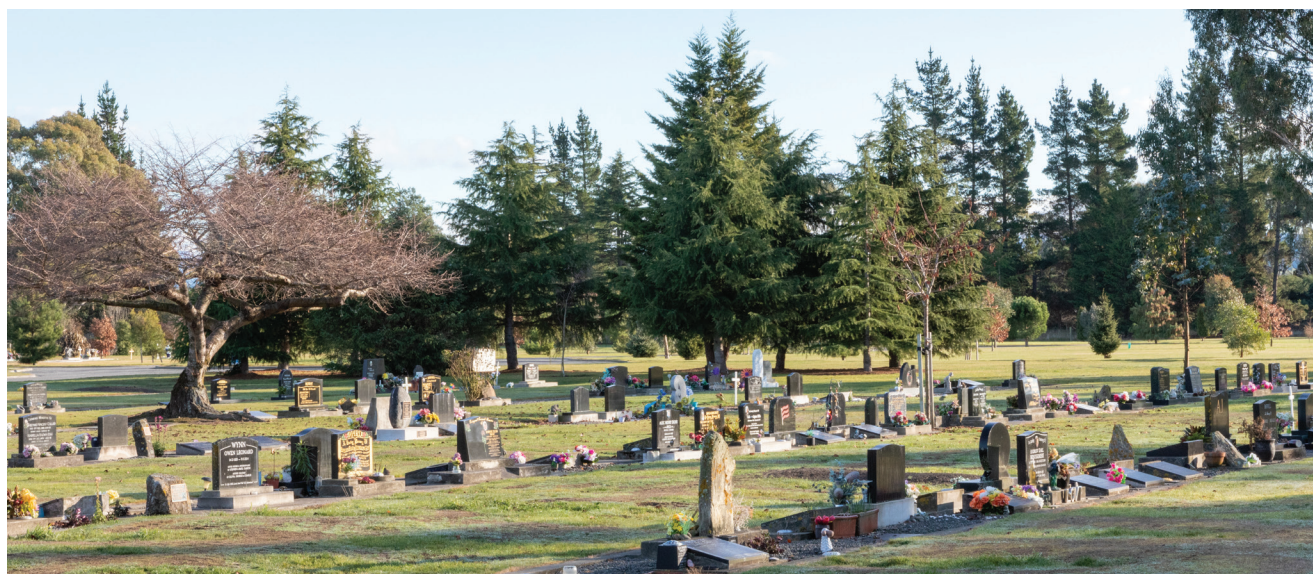
Pt LOT 1 DP 4115 0.374300

**History/Background:** Opened in 1884, lots were drawn to allocate the sections for each denomination.

**Area (Ha):** 0.37

**Land Status/Reserve**

**Classification:** Grass - Amenity



**Name:** Rangiora Park Lawn Cemetery

**Status:** Open

**Location:** Cnr East Belt and Coldstream Road, Rangiora

**Legal Description:** RES 4427, 2.756900 Ha

**History/Background:** The land for this cemetery was given to the town in 1880 by early settler Samuel Andrews to be used for recreational purposes and was named Maria Andrews Park in memory of his wife. The Rangiora Borough Council had been looking for a suitable site for a public cemetery since the 1860s. Their efforts were frustrated by the opposition of the adjoining local authorities, and the narrow denominationalism. The Borough Council owned a

useless piece of riverbank parkland which was seen as a possible solution. In 1940 the status of the park was changed by Order in Council from a recreation ground to a reserve, prepared as a lawn cemetery, and as the Maria Andrews Cemetery, was declared open in June 1942.

**Area (Ha):** 2.76

**Land Status/Reserve Classification:** Grass - Amenity

**Name:**

Sefton Cemetery Reserve

**Status:** In reserve

**Location:**

198 Factory Road, Sefton

**Legal Description:**

RES 163 4.046800 Ha

**History/Background:**

**Area (Ha):** 4.05

**Land Status/Reserve**

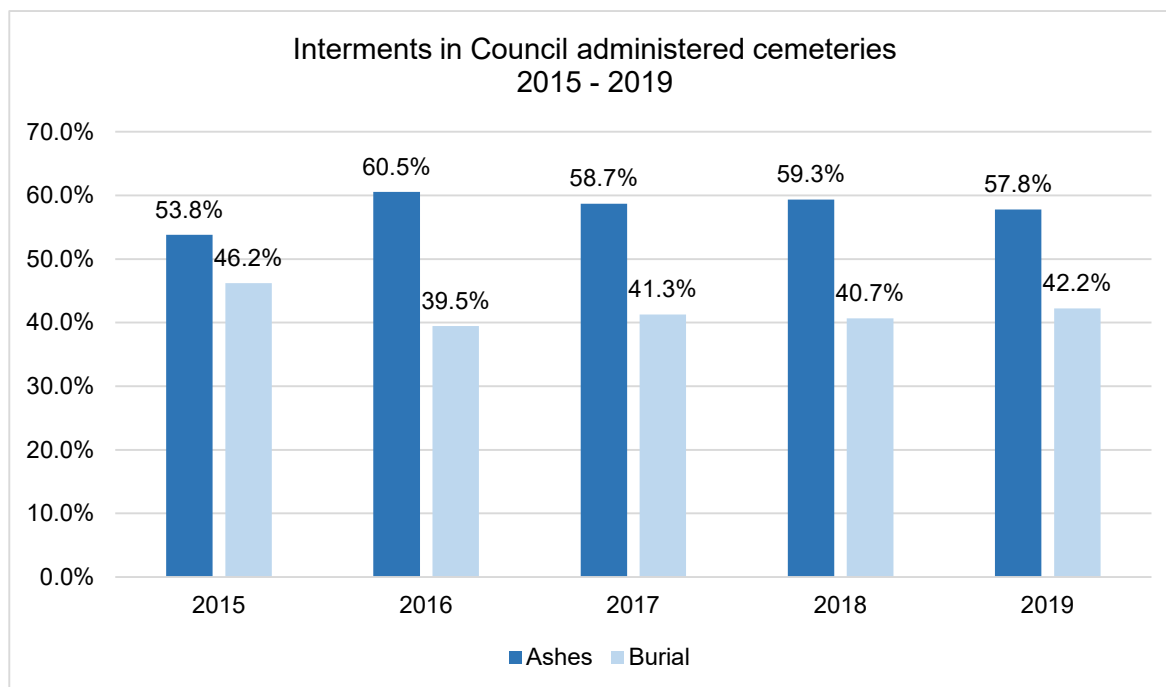
**Classification:** Grassland grass amenity





## 6.2 Cemetery Strategy Projections

### Burial statistics



| Year | Ashes  |         | Burial |         | Total Number |
|------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------------|
|      | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |              |
| 2015 | 85     | 53.8%   | 73     | 46.2%   | 158          |
| 2016 | 112    | 60.5%   | 73     | 39.5%   | 185          |
| 2017 | 118    | 58.7%   | 83     | 41.3%   | 201          |
| 2018 | 108    | 59.3%   | 74     | 40.7%   | 182          |
| 2019 | 104    | 57.8%   | 76     | 42.2%   | 180          |

Figure 3: Interment in Council managed cemeteries 2015 - 2019

| Year   | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Number | 381  | 378  | 378  | 432  | 426  |

Figure 4: Number of deaths in the Waimakariri District 2015 - 2019

Source: Statistics NZ

### 6.3 Legislative framework

A summary of the key Acts are outlined below.

The **Burial and Cremation Act 1964** is the primary legislation for the management of burial and cremation in New Zealand. Its primary purpose is to ensure every community has access to places for burial and cremation.

Cemeteries are an essential public service and local authorities have a legal responsibility under the Act to provide them. The Act authorises local authorities to undertake work for carrying out this duty – namely acquisition of land and establishing, maintaining and improving cemeteries. The Act requires that *“every cemetery shall be open for the interment of all deceased persons, to be buried with any religious or other ceremony, or without any ceremony, as the friends of the deceased think proper”*.

Some local authorities provide cremation services but they are not legally obliged to do so. The Waimakariri District Council does not provide this facility.

This Act is under review at the time of writing this Cemetery Strategy and may change many aspects about how burials or cremations are managed. Any changes and major implications will be added to the strategy by a review.

The **Reserves Act 1977** Many cemeteries within the District are classified as local purpose reserve (cemetery). In the case of local purpose reserves they can be used for a broad range of activities unless their purpose has been narrowed, which in this case is for cemetery purposes.

The **Health Act 1956** sets out obligations for local authorities to improve, promote and protect public health within its District. For that purpose it is empowered to appoint environmental health officers to assess and manage nuisance and create and enforce bylaws to protect public health.

Cemeteries are specifically included as a sanitary work in the Act and local authorities may be required by the Minister to provide, alter or extend sanitary works under this Act.

The **Local Government Act 2002** requires cemetery assessments, and the requirement to use prudent asset management practices for cemetery acquisition, improvement, maintenance and replacement.

The **Resource Management Act 1991** requires that activities on cemeteries, including the creation of new cemeteries, must comply with the requirements of this Act and the Waimakariri District Plan.

### 6.4 Burial traditions

#### Burial traditions (excluding Christian)

**Buddhist** – generally favour cremation, but embalming is allowed as well. Families choose according to their personal preference. There are no rules governing when the burial or cremation takes place. Buddhist funeral rites are conducted on the morning of the burial/cremation ceremony. Do not prohibit the donation of organs. See autopsies as a way of helping others. Do prefer that a medical examiner wait three or four days before the autopsy, until the soul has left the body.

**Hindu** – death rituals dictate that cremation is the norm, but the body remains in the family’s home until it is moved to the cremation location. Funeral ceremony has three parts (1) A wake/funeral in the family’s home; (2) A cremation ceremony (mukhagni); and (3) a “shraddha” ceremony. A Hindu funeral typically takes place within one day and sometimes two days after the time of death.

**Islam** – an Islamic funeral is considered a community event. Muslims believe a funeral to be a very spiritual occasion. One very important funeral rite in the Islamic faith is that burial take place as quickly as possible after death. For this reason there is no viewing, wake or visitation. Body is taken to the burial site in a silent procession. Another important Islamic burial rite is to have each person at the burial throw three handfuls of dirt into the grave. Since Muslims believe there will be a physical resurrection of the body on Judgement Day, the faith prohibits cremation. Similarly, autopsies are strongly discouraged, since they delay burial and are considered a desecration of the body. Also, Muslims prefer not to move the body away from the site of death, making an autopsy even more unsettling for them. Embalming, considered yet another desecration of the body, is performed only if required by law.

In Muslim cemeteries, there are at least two types of graves:

Al-Shaqq: is to make a deep vertical hole in the ground.

Al-Lahed: is to make a deep vertical hole in the ground, then in the bottom make a side horizontal hole big enough to cover the whole body.

Both types are used, but it is preferable to use Al-Lahed if the land is solid.

The grave should always be perpendicular (horizontal to the direction of Qiblah (Mecca)).<sup>7</sup>

**Jewish** – typically the time between death and burial is not long. Traditionally a Jewish burial is supposed to take place with 24 hours of death. This is done in accordance with the Torah, sacred Jewish scripture, which says, “You shall bury him the same day... His body should not remain all night”. Today, outside of Orthodox communities, funerals rarely occur this quickly. However, the funeral should take place as soon as possible following the death. Burials never take place on the Sabbath or holidays. Simple wooden caskets for all, embalming prohibited. Most Jewish people do not want to be cremated. This is mainly a reaction to the millions of Jews who died in the crematoria during the Holocaust. Leaving the cemetery people wash their hands, a symbolic gesture designed to disassociate the living from death and impurity.

**Sikh** – format can vary widely. Sometimes there will be a service before the cremation, the cremation, and then another service. Sometimes there will only be a cremation, with a few prayers recited. Services can take place at the home of the bereaved family, at the gurdwara, outdoors, or at the crematorium. Sikh cremation can take place during day or night. Cremation is preferred for Sikh funerals. In other parts of the world this is done with outdoor funeral pyres, but in New Zealand is restricted to crematoria. Burial or any other means for disposing the body are acceptable if the circumstances do not allow for cremation. After cremation the ashes are usually buried in the earth or scattered. Often Sikhs will scatter the ashes in a body of flowing water, such as a river or the sea. Sikhism does not approve the raising of monuments or placing stones in the name of the dead person to mark the site of cremation.

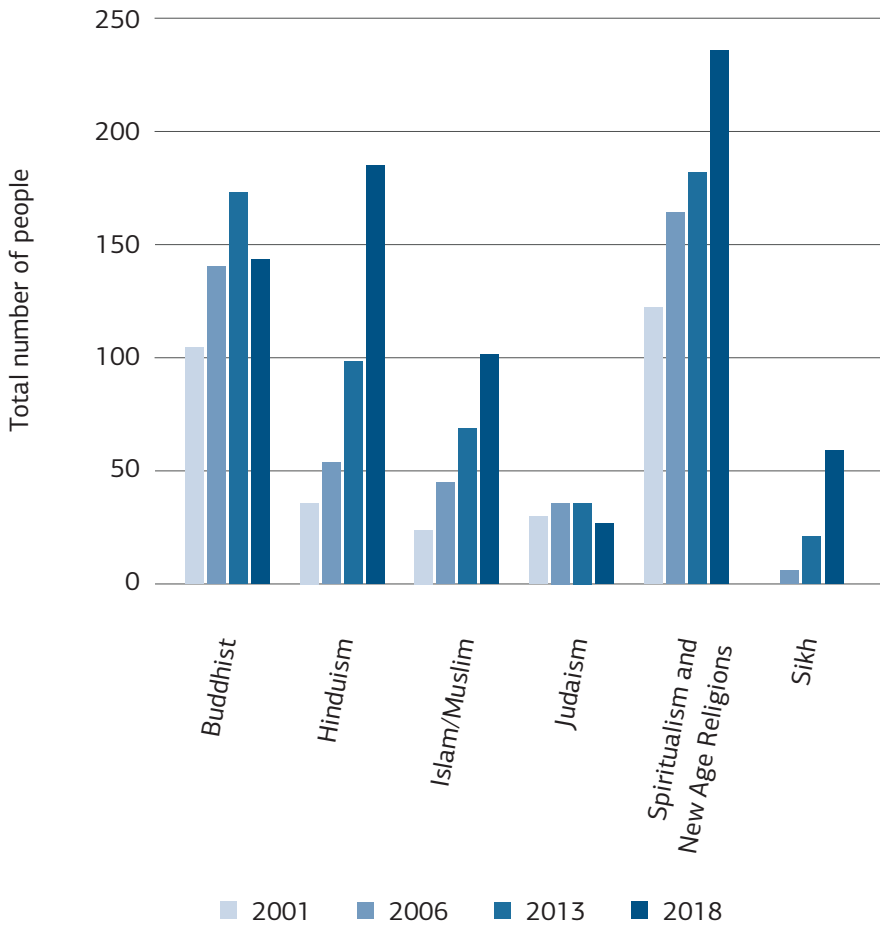
**Spiritualism** – beliefs about death include ‘the Continuous Existence of the Human Soul’ and ‘The Communion of Spirits and the Ministry of Angels’. Spiritualists believe that after our bodies have died our souls, regardless of belief, survive in a different realm and can communicate with the living world. A specifically Spiritualist funeral is an important celebration of their beliefs. The funeral can incorporate either a burial or cremation and a Spiritualist minister can also officiate at the scattering of ashes or a memorial service. A green funeral or natural burial might also appeal to Spiritualist.

<sup>7</sup> Muslim Funeral Services, The Ghusl Procedure <https://www.mfs.asn.au/ghusl--burial-steps.html>



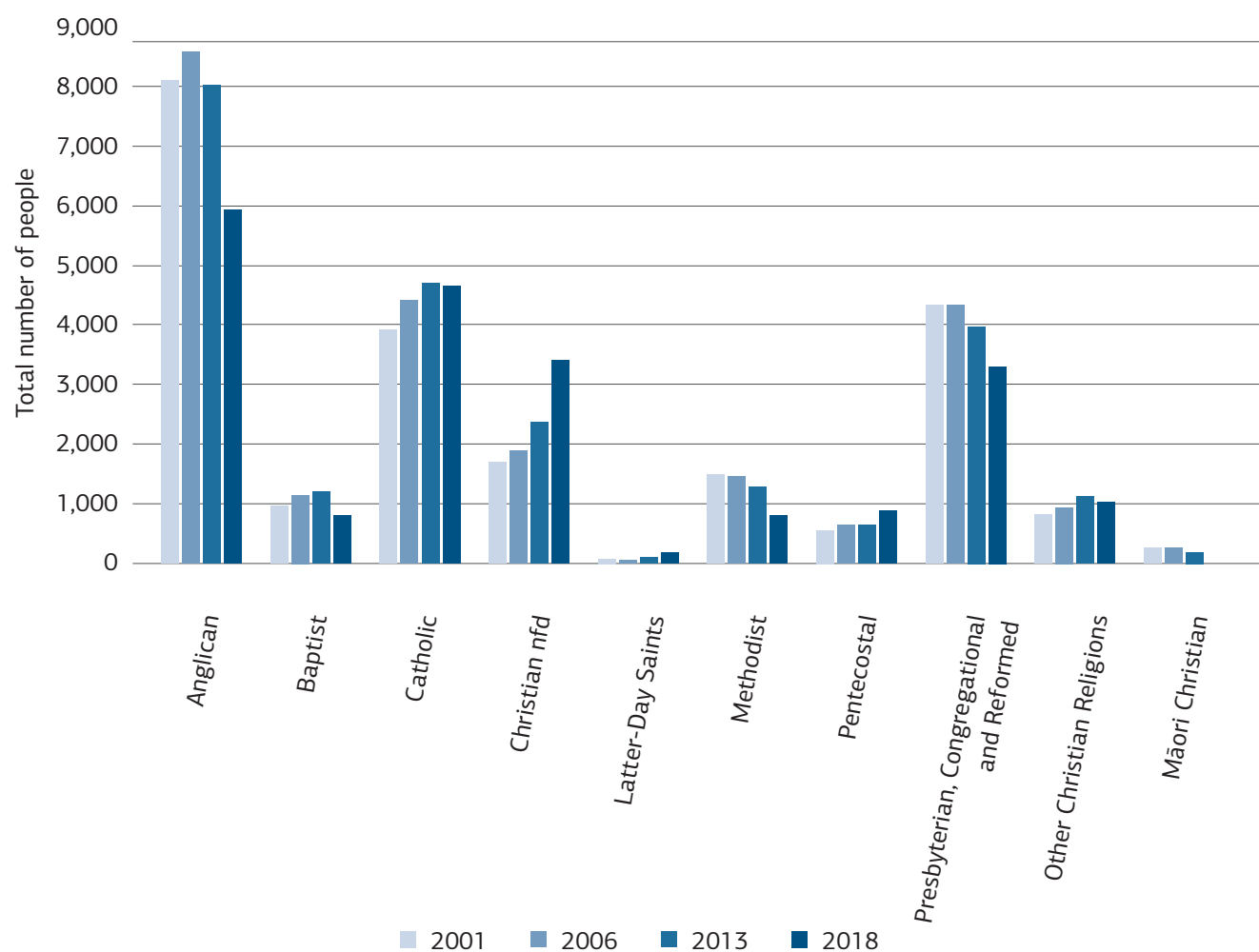
## Religious affiliation demographics

### Other religion affiliations in the Waimakariri District



| Religion                           | 2001       | 2006       | 2013       | 2018       |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Buddhist                           | 105        | 141        | 174        | 144        |
| Hinduism                           | 36         | 54         | 99         | 186        |
| Islam/Muslim                       | 24         | 45         | 69         | 102        |
| Judaism                            | 30         | 36         | 36         | 27         |
| Spiritualism and New Age Religions | 123        | 165        | 183        | 237        |
| Sikh                               | 0          | 6          | 21         | 63         |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>318</b> | <b>447</b> | <b>582</b> | <b>759</b> |

## Christian religion affiliation in the Waimakariri District



| Religion                                  | 2001          | 2006          | 2013          | 2018          |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Anglican                                  | 8,076         | 8,550         | 8,001         | 5,913         |
| Baptist                                   | 963           | 1,146         | 1,200         | 798           |
| Catholic                                  | 3,900         | 4,401         | 4,686         | 4,638         |
| Christian nfd                             | 1,698         | 1,890         | 2,370         | 3,396         |
| Latter-Day Saints                         | 81            | 57            | 96            | 189           |
| Methodist                                 | 1,491         | 1,455         | 1,275         | 801           |
| Pentecostal                               | 558           | 642           | 642           | 882           |
| Presbyterian, Congregational and Reformed | 4,314         | 4,326         | 3,963         | 3,294         |
| Other Christian Religions                 | 816           | 939           | 1,128         | 1,032         |
| Māori Christian                           | 261           | 258           | 189           |               |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>22,158</b> | <b>23,664</b> | <b>23,550</b> | <b>21,402</b> |







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