

**ITEM B NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR COX - PUBLIC CREMATORIUM**

Councillor Cox has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that Council –

- 1 Notes the community concern regarding the impending closure of Wollongong’s public Crematorium.
- 2 Calls for expressions of interest for organisations to operate the Crematorium as a public service, including contributing funds for repairing or upgrading the existing cremator.”

**Background provided by Councillor Cox:**

Many community members were upset and alarmed at the announcement of the impending closure of the Crematorium. This included people from all walks of life, but significantly from people who had recently buried a loved one and had been left with a huge bill from a profit-making funeral company. It is important that people on low to moderate incomes can actually afford a decent funeral for their family members without being saddled with a debt of tens of thousands of dollars that they can never repay. Having a public crematorium is one way of ensuring that low cost funerals remain an option for our community.

Currently, Council provides a baseline cost for cremations, which in turn helps regulate the price of cremations in the Illawarra. Each year, private providers wait to see Council’s prices, then base their own fees on that. The physical space exists to continue a public cremation service. An open public Expression of Interest process will provide a transparent process to identify if there is in fact a demand for the City's public cremation service to continue.