



*Speaking the truth in love*

*Eph 4:15*

**11 June 2021**

## **DISCUSSION ON CEMETERIES MANAGEMENT WITH HON. JOHN BARILARO**

I met today with Deputy Premier, Hon. John Barilaro MP to reset the negotiations over the future of crown cemeteries.

I was assured by the Deputy Premier that the Catholic Cemeteries on behalf of faith groups it serves will continue to manage and operate crown cemeteries in metropolitan Sydney.

Arrangements will be made for Catholic cemeteries to be a separate operator and not included in the government's secular OneCrown model.

This is an important step forward for faith groups to know that their prayers, services, rituals and burial rights will be protected.

We also discussed the two new cemeteries sites at Campbelltown and Penrith and I am confident that Macarthur Memorial Park will be underway shortly.

I have extended an invitation to the Deputy Premier to join us for a meeting of faith groups shortly where he will be able to explain the next steps to those involved in managing their communities' burial arrangements.

Regular meetings will be occurring shortly to progress this matter and bring it to a conclusion in the coming weeks. I thank Mr Barilaro for his co-operation and professionalism in this matter.

Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP, DD BA LIB BTheol DPhil  
Archbishop of Sydney