



## Environment and Resources Committee

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The Environment and Resources Committee is a select committee of the Queensland Parliament. It was established by resolution of the House on 23 April 2009 to monitor and report on: environmental protection; climate change; land management; water security; and energy.

# Media Release

## Parliamentary Environment Committee to look at the environmental impacts of burials and cremations

The Chair of the Queensland Parliament's Environment and Resources Committee, Caryn Sullivan MP, said her committee will examine the impacts of burials and cremations on the environment and how these impacts can be minimised. This will include land use impacts.

"Almost all of the 27,000 people who died in Queensland in 2010 were laid to rest in conventional burials or cremations," Mrs Sullivan said. "Both practices involve the release of toxins and carcinogens with significant impacts on the environment. Burials and cremations are also resource-intensive and involve considerable expense for grieving families."

"The funeral industry, like other service, producer and manufacturing industries, has a vital role to play in minimising pollution. Burials and cremations are big business in Australia and have changed little in my lifetime. Our inquiry will have a fresh look at the industry's practices and how they can be improved."

"I'm keen to discover why cheaper, greener choices to conventional burials and cremations are not readily available," Mrs Sullivan said.

"The committee will also consider whether funeral directors should be required to provide better information about the cremation and burial services they provide. Empowering consumers to make informed choices could hold the key to better outcomes for the environment in the future."

The committee will take public submissions until 14 April 2011. The committee will report its recommendations to Parliament.

*For further information contact the committee's secretariat at Parliament House ph 3406 7908.*