

Place of Assembly application refused

Council will issue a Notice of Refusal to grant a permit for an application for the use and development of a Place of Assembly (Memorial Tree Park) at 16 Miles Road Jumbunna.

The application is to use and develop land in the Farming Zone for a Place of Assembly (Memorial Tree Park) for the burial of cremated human ashes beneath flowering native trees.

Fifteen submissions were received in relation to the application. Of these, 14 were objections and one was a letter of support. Of the objections, one was a petition with 30 signatories.

Objections to the proposal primarily focussed on the potential for loss of amenity to nearby dwellings, while the submission in support of the proposal referred to the need for such a facility as an alternative form of commemoration within the community.

Director Development Services, Bryan Sword, said the application was refused because it was inconsistent with State and Local policies to protect rural land from unanticipated development, would lead to the permanent removal of land from agricultural production, would detract from the amenity of adjoining residents and the proposal did not demonstrate provision for adequate on-site car parking.

“While the concept of a Memorial Tree Park has broad support in the Farming Zone and by some State and Local Planning policies, the particular circumstances of the subject land are expected to result in negative amenity impacts on neighbouring dwellings that cannot be managed or reduced by permit conditions,” Mr Sword explained.

“It is considered that although there may be interest for the type of facility proposed, the subject land is not particularly suited to the proposal to the extent that the change of use from farming is necessitated.”

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