

For full information regarding Natural Burials at Canberra Cemeteries please refer to *Canberra Cemeteries - Guidelines for Natural Burial*

What is a 'natural burial' or 'green burial'? A natural burial is the act of returning a body as naturally as possible to the earth. To achieve this, we recommend that the body not be embalmed or cremated, but instead buried in a simple casket or shroud, in a protected green space.' [\[The Natural Burial Association\]](#)

How is a natural burial performed? A grave is dug using the most efficient means available to a maximum depth of 1200mm. Soil taken from the grave is kept nearby and replaced after interment.

How are graves marked? Graves are not visually marked. The GPS location is captured and a Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) is placed underground beside the grave. This will allow Cemetery staff to find the exact location of burials, if required.

What kind of memorial is permitted? A plaque of a standard specified size may be placed in the communal memorialisation space provided. Typical information contained on a plaque will include: Name; date of birth and death, location of burial and a very small epitaph.

What can be buried? The body may only be wrapped in biodegradable or compostable materials and cannot be embalmed. If a coffin is used it must (other than nails or screws) be made from natural untreated timber.

Can I leave anything on the grave? At the time of burial fresh flowers may be placed on the grave, otherwise no. *Canberra Cemeteries* reserves the right to remove any objects it considers not in keeping with the ethos of the space.

Can I transport the body to the grave? A body must be transported to grave side in a coffin or container approved by the Chief Health Officer. Please consult your Funeral Director if you are not sure what this is.

Can a second burial take place in a grave? Generally no, but this will depend on the amount of time since the first burial and at the sole discretion of cemetery staff.

Can the location be reserved? Only companion locations can be reserved. At the time of burial a limited choice of locations will be available for first burial.

Can I plant anything on the grave? Canberra Cemeteries will provide a plant from a short list of suitable endemic species.

Can I scatter ashes? Yes, cremated remains may be scattered or buried on the natural burial ground but no specific location is recorded. Normal fees for the interments of ashes will apply.