



ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL

...The Golden Heart of the Gulf

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 7th February 2025 as at 1:30pm

SUBJECT: Georgetown Cemetery

Along with local residents, I was shocked to see the damage caused to the Georgetown Cemetery as a result of the flooding on the morning of 5 February. Significant damage was caused to the cemetery, to an extent not witnessed in recent times. Witnessing this level of damage can be distressing. It is a sensitive issue, and Council is taking steps to deal with this unfortunate situation. In fact, the level of flooding was unprecedented, and long-standing records have certainly been broken.

The community has also expressed their concerns about the damage caused and what Council is doing.

I have directed Council work crews to immediately commence cleaning up the cemetery. Work starts today and will involve making the road safe, removing the large amounts of debris from the grounds and making the cemetery accessible for families.

Because Council crews are starting today, we expect that access to the site will be available very soon. Residents will be able to inspect family graves to decide what's required for their own repairs if necessary.

Unfortunately, some headstones and other monuments have been damaged or washed away. Every effort is being made to locate these items to allow families to reinstate them, if they can be located. Council crews will collect such items and will liaise with families, so this is made as easy as possible.

Drone footage and detailed photographs are being taken of the cemetery to ensure there is an accurate record of what's happened. This will assist in future funding claims for longer-term repairs. It is Council's intention that the Cemetery is returned to its original condition or as close as is possible, despite the level of damage caused.

If residents have any questions or require further information, please contact me directly on 0439 414 771. I'm happy to discuss your concerns and advise on any other works being conducted at the Cemetery to ensure it is available for use as soon as possible.

MARK WATT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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