

FORMER UPPER BYLONG CATHOLIC CHURCH & CEMETERY



The Catholic Diocese of Bathurst ceased using the former Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Cemetery at Upper Bylong in 2000 and in 2008 sold the site to an adjoining private landholder. That owner sold their land (including the former church building and cemetery site) in 2010 to a pastoral company. The pastoral company (including its landholdings) was subsequently purchased by KEPCO Bylong Australia (KEPCO) in 2014. As the former church building and cemetery are within the footprint of the proposed Bylong Coal Project (the Project), the building will need to be removed and the graves relocated should the Project's Development Application be approved. KEPCO has, and will continue to maintain the grounds of the cemetery until the approvals are granted.

What is happening?

KEPCO engaged highly experienced archaeological history and heritage specialists in early 2014 to investigate and assess the historical and archaeological significance of the graves located within the grounds of the former church and cemetery. The heritage specialists consulted relatives and descendants of those buried at the cemetery to capture a detailed historical record of the church building and biographies of those buried in the cemetery. The biographical histories have been shared with descendants for comment and to gather further historical details.

How many graves are located at the former Upper Bylong Catholic Church Cemetery?

There are four marked graves located in the former cemetery. The graves are of Hugh Francis Cobrey (1929); John Gerald Burke (1932); Ethel Kate Readford (1937); and Susan Alenia Cecelia Cobrey (wife of Hugh) (1946). A ground penetrating radar survey has located three possible unmarked graves and five other areas of disturbance. Despite extensive research, only one of these unmarked graves has been identified, namely Gerard William Campbell (1931), maternal grandson of Hugh and Susan Cobrey.

What will happen to the graves in the cemetery?

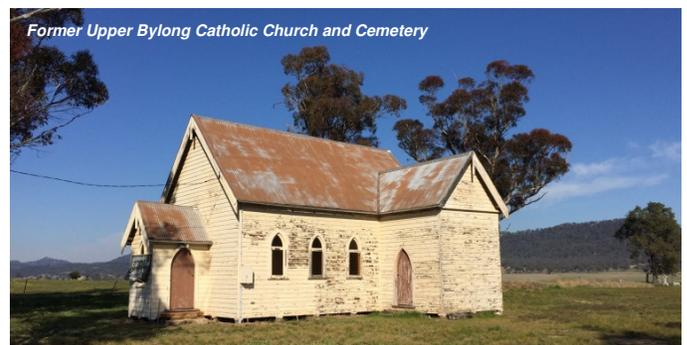
The cemetery falls within the proposed mine footprint and the graves will therefore need to be relocated should the Project receive development consent. KEPCO recognises this is a sensitive issue which needs to be worked through in discussion with the families. KEPCO is fully committed to consulting relatives and descendants so appropriate arrangements to relocate the graves can be made in consultation with the families. We are already liaising with a number of relatives who

have come forward or have been identified by our heritage specialists. KEPCO is following strict Government guidelines put in place to regulate the process and all appropriate approvals are being sought.

Has this process been undertaken before?

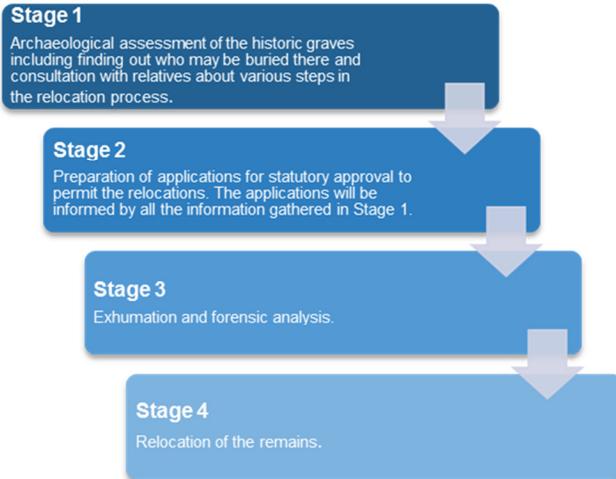
Grave relocations are not uncommon, and take place for many reasons, including adaptive reuse of land and at the request of families.

More than 100 graves at the old Cadia Cemetery were relocated as part of the Cadia Gold Mine project near Orange in 1998. KEPCO is following the same relocation processes as Cadia Gold Mine, as it has been identified by the NSW Office of the Environment and Heritage as a best practice example of grave relocations. Other examples of grave relocations include the Old Sydney Burial Ground (which is now the site of the Sydney Town Hall) and the old Devonshire Street Cemetery, now the site of Central Railway. Pioneer Park in Norton Street, Leichhardt is another example of adaptive reuse of former cemeteries.



What is the process?

The relocation process is composed of four stages:



KEPCO is currently at Stage 2 of the process, which includes preparation of the applications for statutory approval to permit the relocations and importantly, ongoing consultation with descendants and relatives.

KEPCO is following all government regulations as we proceed to work closely with affected families.

When will the relocations take place?

The relocations are proposed to take place after the NSW Government grants the necessary approvals and consents and relocation arrangements have been confirmed with relatives.

KEPCO anticipates commencing project construction in 2019. Any grave relocation would occur in the period leading up to this time, subject to and after receiving all necessary approvals.

When will relatives be engaged?

KEPCO is committed to full and inclusive engagement with known descendants and relatives.

In addition to contact by the heritage specialists, senior KEPCO representatives have been and will continue to consult with relatives and descendants who will be kept fully informed about relocation options and likely timing. Further, relatives will be requested to participate in the preparation of and in ceremonies associated with the relocation of their ancestor's remains.

KEPCO is actively liaising with as many relatives as possible, individually, as well as through one or more nominated family representatives, if preferred.

Do relatives get to have a say in where their ancestor is relocated?

Yes. KEPCO is liaising with relatives to ascertain relatives' wishes and to discuss options about relocation of their ancestors' remains. Relocation provides an opportunity to reunite ancestors with family members buried at other cemeteries.

The relocation of headstones will comply with the regulations of the managed cemetery that is chosen.

What will happen to the church building?

KEPCO is currently investigating the feasibility of potentially relocating the former church and finding a suitable reuse for the building. There are many factors influencing the potential feasibility to relocate the former church building, including its structural condition and transportability. Discussions have commenced with stakeholders about potential alternative uses.

What is the approval process for the Project, including the relocations?

The Bylong Coal Project is a State Significant Development and approvals are sought under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Statutory permits and approvals for the exhumations will be obtained in accordance with Clause 69 of the *Public Health (Disposal of Bodies) Regulation 2012*. Consultation with descendants, Mid-Western Regional Council, Catholic and Anglican Dioceses and NSW Health will continue to be undertaken during this process.

KEPCO values community feedback. If you have any questions or comments about the Project, please contact the Bylong Coal Project Community and Stakeholder Engagement team.

If you are a relative or descendant of those buried in the cemetery, please contact us at any time to discuss questions you may have about the consultation and relocation process.

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