

## FORMER UPPER BYLONG CATHOLIC CHURCH AND CEMETERY



The former Upper Bylong Catholic Church and cemetery is located on land owned by KEPCO Bylong Australia (KEPCO). KEPCO is committed to providing ongoing maintenance of the church and cemetery grounds.

### BACKGROUND

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 in 2014.

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.

### IMPACT MANAGEMENT

There will be no direct impacts to the former Upper Bylong Catholic Church and cemetery. KEPCO is committed to providing ongoing maintenance of the church and cemetery grounds.

A Conservation Management Plan will be prepared to manage the indirect impacts of the Project. A vibration strategy will also be developed for the former Upper Bylong Catholic Church and cemetery to document any relevant site-specific blast mitigation and management measures.

### GRAVES 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.

The cemetery is not within the proposed mining footprint, and the graves do not need to be relocated for the purposes of the Project. KEPCO has been engaging family members over an extended period of time, and although relocation of the graves is not required, KEPCO will support relocation arrangements if that is the preferred option of families.

### POTENTIAL GRAVE RELOCATIONS

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. Relatives may choose not to relocate their relative's grave site.

## APPROVALS FOR POTENTIAL RELOCATIONS

Should descendants choose to relocate their relative's grave, statutory permits and approvals for the exhumations will be obtained in accordance with Clause 69 of the *Public Health (Disposal of Bodies) Regulation 2012* and Mid-Western Regional Council (MWRC) regulations. Consultation with descendants, MWRC, 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 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.**

## CONTACT US:

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Former Upper Bylong Catholic Church