



Springvale Botanical Cemetery is filling up.

N14OS105

# Cemetery urges forward planning

Adrian Ballantyne

SPRINGVALE Botanical Cemetery is urging people to “buy now and die later”, with grave sites expected to run out within 40 years.

Greater Dandenong Council voted last week to rezone a 4ha tract of land after the cemetery discovered the area was not zoned to allow graves.

But cemetery CEO Russ Allison said the land would only provide “five to 10 years of burials” on top of the 25 to 35 years’ worth of vacant graves in the rest of the cemetery.

While there are other cemeteries in Greater Dandenong, Springvale Botanical Cemetery is one of the largest in Australia.

Mr Allison said people should act fast if they wanted their family to be buried together.

“In reality you are probably looking at 40 years and then there’ll be no new graves,” he said.

“It makes sense to buy now and die later.” About 20 per cent of the Springvale Botan-

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ical Cemetery’s business is for prepaid plots. “The question is what you do not just with your grandparents but with yourself,” Mr Allison said.

In a report, council development services director Mal Baker said plots at the cemetery would not last forever.

“It is expected that the existing land, based on the yearly portion of burials, is only sufficient for approximately 25 years,” Mr Baker said.

“This is equivalent to 35,000 monumental or 45,000 lawn burials.”

The council will now seek authorisation from the minister for planning to amend the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme.

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