



Broomehill Cemetery

5 Year Plan

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Overview:

The Broomehill Cemetery is picturesque cemetery in a bush setting. It is not a formal ‘European’ Garden style cemetery and, as such, fallen leaves and gravel paths are a feature and are embraced as part of the ambience of the cemetery.

Introduction:

Cemeteries are an important part of the fabric of any community. The monuments of our ancestors provide a history of the growth and an insight into the development of the district. This is especially evident in Broomehill.

Cemeteries have a deep historical connection to the local community. They bring residents closer to an understanding of the past and help to provide insights into how people within the area used to live. By looking at the headstones and reading details about those that have passed, we can gain information on the importance of individuals to the community at the time and the jobs and social connections they had during their life.

Older sections of cemeteries provide valuable social ‘documents’ of history and changes in taste, custom and design. A ‘Grant Right of Burial’ (GRB) for the Cemetery entitles the user to the plot for a period of 25 years and maintenance of the plot, headstones and monuments is to be completed by the holder of the GRB. As could be expected, maintenance of plots over 100 years old can fall into disrepair as family ties to the area and the deceased weaken, and this has occurred in the Pioneer Section, or eastern section, of the Broomehill Cemetery.

Cemeteries are a place of serene remembrance; they allow us to enjoy time with loved ones to simply sit quietly and remember those that have passed. Cemeteries hold deep significance for families with loved ones buried in the area, not necessarily those people still residing in the Shire, helping to bring comfort to families as they struggle with their grief while remembering loved ones. Beyond their functional value as an area in which to place people after they’ve passed, cemeteries also act as a place of memorial. They can become the host of ritual events for families and post-funeral events, allowing the family to give their loved one a respectful and dignified burial process at the end of their life.

Cemeteries hold great significance to communities across the country, and it’s important to remember their value throughout our lives. The state of a cemetery and the level of care and maintenance provided to it are therefore a good barometer of the health of the community itself.

It is easy to envisage the Broomehill Cemetery in years past, with the cherished grave sites of the early pioneers of the district in a built form that befitted the individuals status in the community. Unfortunately many of these graves have deteriorated with the passage of time and the ancestors movement away from the region. The opportunity exists now to rejuvenate the Broomehill Cemetery to preserve the history of the district and contribute to the historical village of Broomehill. Indeed the Broomehill Cemetery could become an attraction in its own right. This 5 year plan is the first step in identifying possible improvements that can be undertaken by both the community and the Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup and setting a timeline to achieve such improvements.

This plan will be reviewed and updated every two (2) years, commencing in 2025.

Current Issues Identified:

The Senior Management Team of the Shire have identified the following **issues** currently affecting the operation and enjoyment of the Broomehill Cemetery:

1. Bush re-growth needs removal to better define areas;
2. Some areas / facilities looking tired, especially the pioneer section;
3. Lack of basic facilities;
4. An accurate survey of lots, paths and roadways is required;
5. No water is available for public use;
6. No pedestrian access from town;
7. Tree at the end of centre roadway causing issues;
8. No “works” area out-of-sight from public during burials (i.e. framework, sand, machinery, etc)
9. No directions or map on-site; and
10. Perimeter fence is in disrepair.

Pioneer Section Restoration:

Broomehill Village has a rich history dating back to the 1800’s and there are few places better in the townsite to experience this history than at the Cemetery.

The area of the cemetery to the east (or the left hand side) of the main entry gate is home to grave sites in excess of 100 years old. Whilst maintenance of the plot, headstones and monument of each Grant Right of Burial is to be completed by the holder of that GRB, it is not surprising that very old gravesites fall into disrepair as family ties to the area and the deceased weaken. Unfortunately, this has occurred in this section (Pioneer Section) of the Broomehill Cemetery.

To address this disrepair, it is envisaged that a volunteer group or groups be engaged to respectfully restore gravesites to their former glory. This may be in the form of creating a new “Friends of the Broomehill Cemetery” group to undertake this task, or call on existing similar groups, such as the Broomehill Heritage Group, or even utilise the labour of inmates from Pardellup Prison. Most tasks involve painting, cleaning or basic repairs and are not necessarily physically demanding. It may even be an opportunity for travellers at the Caravan Park to undertake voluntary work whilst in the area.

It is envisaged that, for a relatively small expense, this area could be rejuvenated to the point of being an attraction in its own right. Once completed, interpretive signage could help to tell the story of the history of Broomehill through the Cemetery.



Examples of the grave sites requiring repair include:



Examples of grave sites requiring repair (Cont...):



Pedestrian Access:

The Broomehill Cemetery is 1.5kms from the town centre and considered too far to warrant a constructed footpath.

Approximate costs of a 2.0m wide footpath installation from the intersection of Javelin Street (1.3kms)(end of existing footpath) to the Cemetery is as follows:

Footpath Type:	Cost per m ²	Total m ²	Estimated Cost
Gravel:	100	1,300 x 2.0 = 2,600m ²	\$260,000
Hot Mix:	130	2,600m ²	\$338,000
Concrete:	150	2,600m ²	\$390,000

This is possibly a project that could be completed in stages at some time in the future.

Suggested Improvements / 5 Year Plan:

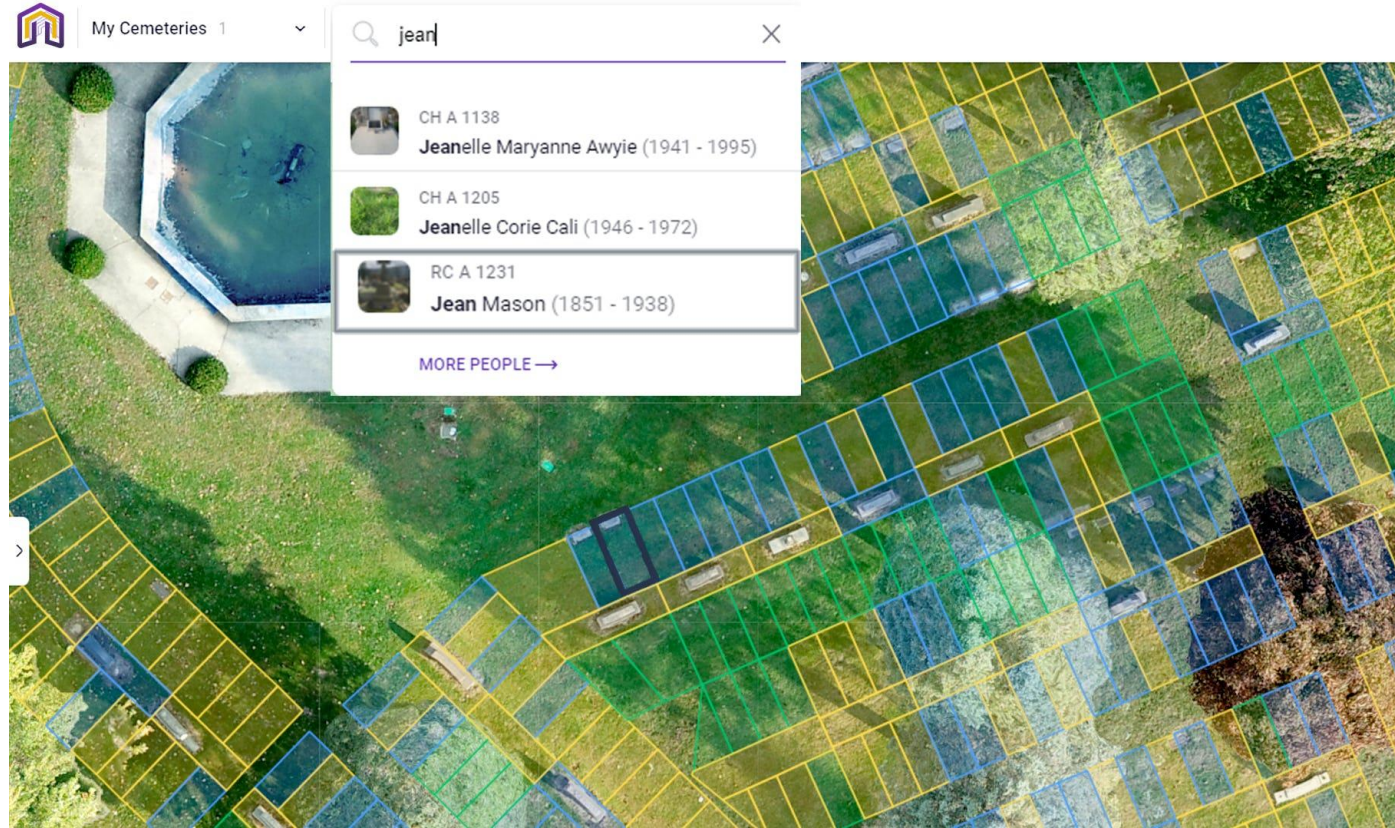
It is proposed that the following initiatives and upgrades be undertaken, in the year indicated, to address the ten (10) issues identified on page 2:

	Overseeing Shire Staff	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
1. Pioneer Section:						
a. Source volunteer labour (i.e. Pardellup), engage an existing community group (e.g. Broomehill Heritage Group), hold community busy bees or create a new 'Friends of the Broomehill Cemetery' group to take interest in the history & preservation of the Pioneer Section;	CEO	✓				
b. Renew individual grave sites within the pioneer section	CEO		✓	✓	✓	
c. Tell the story of the history of the Broomehill Cemetery through interpretive signage and other means.	SSPO				✓	✓
2. Grounds:						
a. Survey entire cemetery	CEO	✓				
b. Map & design future sections of the Cemetery to allow for future needs	CEO	✓				
c. Native garden planting and mulch around the gazebo's to improve amenity	MOW	✓				
d. Redefine rows, roads and walkways and clear unwanted vegetation.	MOW		✓	✓		
e. Establish a works storage area	MOW		✓			
f. Remove select trees in centre road access way	MOW			✓		
g. New Perimeter fencing installed (excluding front fence – where required)	MOW				✓	
h. Create and maintain boundary firebreaks	MOW	✓				
3. Directions /Map:						
a. Purchase on-line Cemetery database for use by staff and the public (approx. \$8,000 for all cemeteries)	SSPO	✓				
b. Sign at the entrance showing cemetery map and QR code to on-line cemetery database	CEO	✓				
c. Repaint existing way finding markers in cemetery to show grave numbers, row numbers/sections & mark individual (unmarked) graves	SSPO			✓		
4. Buildings/Infrastructure:						
a. Seating installed in Gazebo	MOW		✓			
b. Bench seats for rest and reflection	MOW				✓	
c. Cosmetic upgrade to niche wall gazebo	MOW	✓				
5. Other Considerations:						
a. Water to be available for public use (e.g. drinking fountain)	MOW			✓		
b. Low cost (e.g. Compost) toilet facility	MOW					✓

Pictorial Examples:

To assist to illustrate some of the initiatives proposed on the previous page, the following pictures are provided by way of example only:

Item 3(a) - on-line Cemetery database:



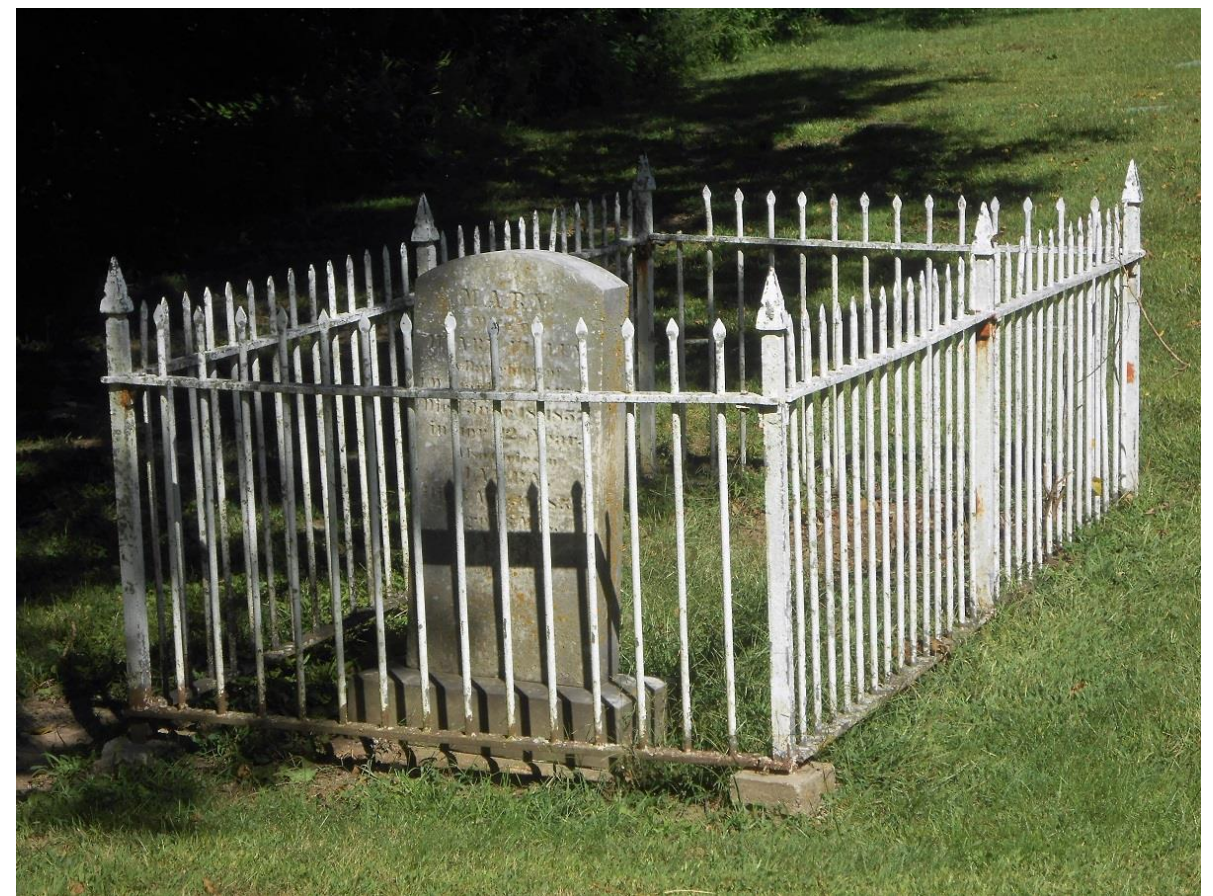
Item 1(b) – Renew of the Pioneer Section



Item 3(c) – Wayfinding markers



2 photos on left are examples of what is available. Photo on right is current Broomehill marker needing refurbishment.

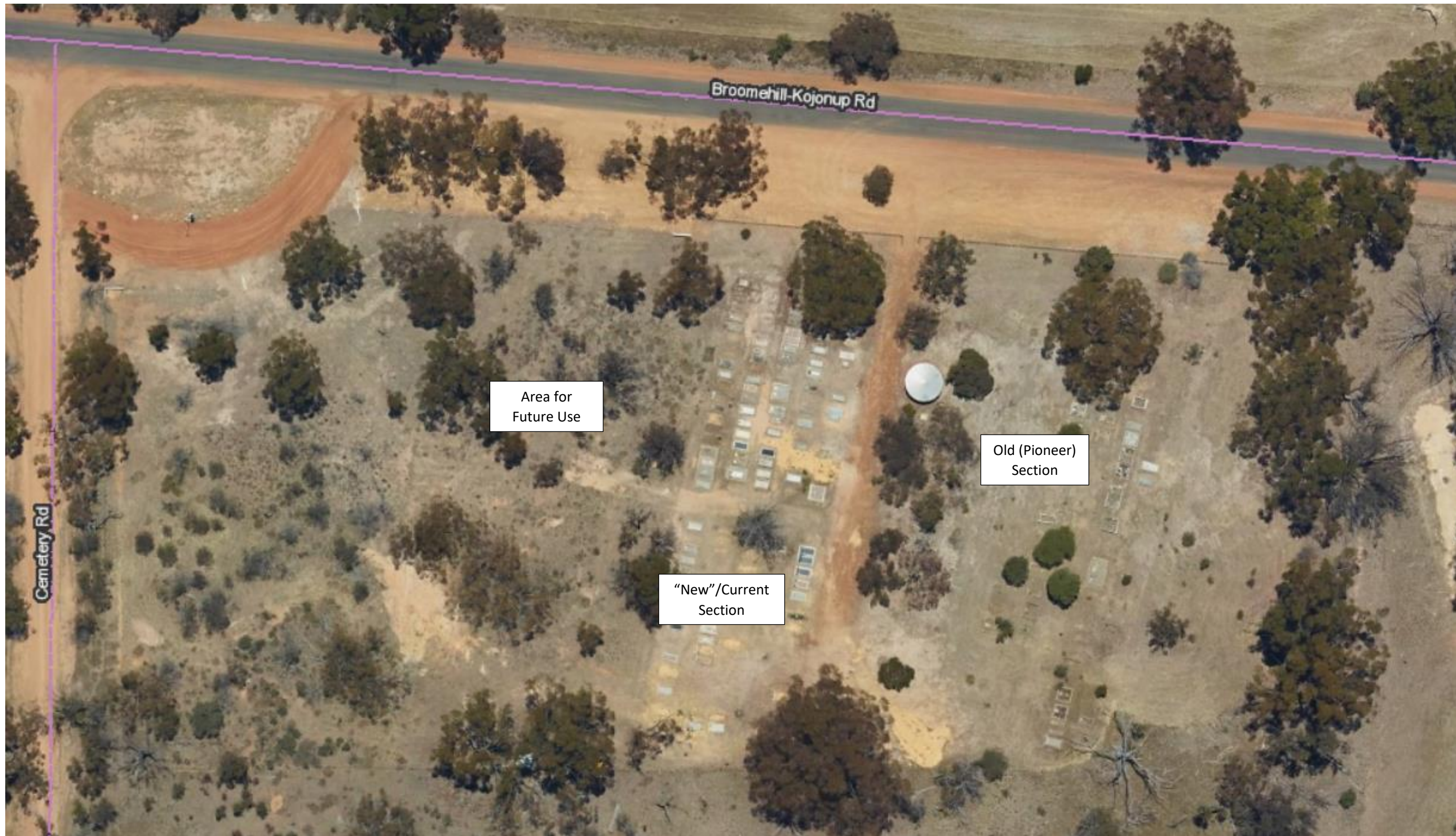


Plan 1 – Location of Cemetery to Town site:



Scale  = 50m

Plan 2 – Broomehill Cemetery (Aerial Photo):



Plan 3 – Current Cemetery Layout

