

# David Koch

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Letter to the Editor

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### Keep cemetery trusts local

Many of Victoria's 514 smaller cemetery trusts fear that they will be abolished under recommendations in the State Services Authority's recent report into the review of cemetery trusts in Victoria.

Although the review was initially set up to look into the management of Victoria's 14 major cemeteries, it has now made recommendations that will see the demise of long established country cemetery trusts.

Small communities, from which volunteer trust members have been appointed like many, similar to Tarrayoukyan, between Coleraine and Balmoral, feel very strongly about retaining full control over their small local cemeteries.

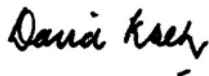
The Tarrayoukyan Cemetery Trust was formed in 1872 and most of the current trust members including Chairman, Alan Edgar, are fourth or fifth generation descendents of the original trust members. This close knit community takes immense pride in caring for the resting place of former residents and original district pioneers.

There are fewer people living in this district these days but these dedicated trust members know that if they are stripped of caring for their local cemetery, no one else will.

Financially viable smaller cemetery trusts like Tarrayoukyan should be sceptical of recommendations that will see their role taken over by centralised bureaucrats who know nothing about these local communities.

I have urged the Government to listen to appeals from cemetery trustees who want to retain full control of their local cemeteries.

Yours sincerely



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