

**Department of the Premier and Cabinet  
Governance and Engagement Division**

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**SECTION:** Protocol and International Engagement

**NUMBER:** GES.PRO.003

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**SUBJECT:** State Funerals

**AUTHORISED:**

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**1. Purpose**

1.1 This document outlines the Queensland Government’s policies and procedures in relation to State Funerals.

**2. Scope**

2.1 This policy applies to the current and former public officials identified in paragraph 4.1.

**3. Definitions**

3.1 **“State Funeral”** – A funeral arranged and funded by the Government which is held to honour prominent people (usually high-ranking public officials) who have given long and outstanding service to the State.

3.2 **“State Memorial Service”** – A church service held in lieu of a State Funeral in circumstances outlined in paragraph 4.5.

3.3 **“Reasonable expenses”** – All expenses of the funeral director [including interstate and intrastate transfers but not international transfers (unless the death occurred whilst on official business)]; burial costs (including burial plot) or cremation costs (including wall niche); and appropriate casket and service expenses (including printing of the order of service). It does not include the cost of catering or refreshments nor stonemasonry, monument or headstone expenses.

**4. Guidelines**

4.1 **Eligibility** – State Funerals have traditionally been held to honour certain high ranking public officials although there is nothing to preclude one being held for other prominent Queenslanders. A list of the various categories of public officials who are eligible for a State Funeral (or a State-funded private funeral) and the levels of eligibility is shown below. The decision to honour other prominent Queenslanders with a State Funeral upon their death is the prerogative of the Premier of the day. Whether a State Funeral is held is subject to acceptance of the offer by the deceased’s family or next-of-kin.

<b><u>Public Officials</u></b>	<b>Eligibility (See below)</b>
<b>Governor and former Governors</b>	A
<b>Premier and former Premiers</b>	A
<b>Deputy Premier and former Deputy Premiers</b>	A
<b>Chief Justice of the Supreme Court</b>	A
<b>Former Chief Justices of the Supreme Court</b>	B
<b>President of the Court of Appeal</b>	A
<b>Members of the Executive Council</b>	A
<b>Former Members of the Executive Council</b> <i>(who served at least four (4) years in such office and have been out of office for less than ten (10) years)</i>	A
<b>Former Members of the Executive Council</b> <i>(who served at least four (4) years in such office but have been out of office for more than ten (10) years)</i>	C
<b>Speaker of the Legislative Assembly</b>	A
<b>Former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly</b> <i>(who served at least four (4) years in such office and have been out of office for less than ten (10) years)</i>	A
<b>Former Speakers of the Legislative Assembly</b> <i>(who served at least four (4) years in such office but have been out of office for more than ten (10) years)</i>	C

### **Eligibility Codes**

- A Eligible for a State Funeral, provided 4.3 does not apply. Also eligible to have all reasonable expenses associated with a private funeral met by the Government.
- B Not eligible for a State Funeral. However, provided 4.3 does not apply, eligible to have all reasonable expenses associated with a private funeral met by the Government.
- C Not eligible for a State Funeral. However, provided 4.3 does not apply, eligible for a government contribution of up to \$10,000 to fund reasonable expenses, excluding the cost of a burial plot or wall niche, associated with a private funeral.

4.2 **Premier's Prerogative** – As stated in 4.1, the decision to offer a State Funeral to prominent Queenslanders, other than those public officials listed above, is the prerogative of the Premier of the day. Among the issues considered by the Premier in determining whether to exercise this prerogative and offer a State Funeral are the following—

- 4.2.1 The deceased's public profile and standing within the community;
- 4.2.2 The extent and length of the deceased's service to the community;
- 4.2.3 The deceased's personal achievements.

### 4.3 Disqualification

4.3.1 For the purposes of this section,  
“**Senior Public Officials**” means the Governor and former Governors, the Premier and former Premiers and the Chief Justice of Queensland.  
“**Public Officials**” means all public officials listed in 4.1, other than Senior Public Officials.

4.3.2 If any Senior Public Official is subsequently convicted of an indictable criminal offence, all entitlements previously available to them under this policy cease. Similarly, any Senior Public Official who was removed from office would no longer automatically qualify for the entitlements outlined above. In such cases, the Premier has a discretion, after considering the nature and circumstances of the removal and whether the public office formerly held by the official has been brought into disrepute, to authorise one of the following options:

- Eligibility unchanged;
- No longer entitled to a State Funeral but eligible for a State-funded private funeral;
- No longer eligible for either a State Funeral or a State-funded private funeral.

4.4 **Funerals held outside Queensland** – A State Funeral will not be held in circumstances where the funeral is to take place outside Queensland, although the Government may offer to meet all reasonable expenses associated with the funeral.

4.5 **State Memorial Service** – In those cases outlined in 4.4, a State Memorial Service may be held in a more convenient location in Queensland with all costs being met by the Government. Consideration may also be given to holding a State Memorial Service in Brisbane in circumstances where the funeral takes place in a less than convenient location within Queensland.

## 5. Responsibilities

5.1 The Director, Protocol and International Engagement, Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPIE), is responsible for the implementation of this policy and for all matters associated with the organisation of State Funerals.

5.2 During a State Funeral, the DPIE’s primary role is one of co-ordination. This includes ensuring an adequate level of official representation, particularly by key Government figures, as well as the observance of ceremonial aspects.

5.3 All reasonable costs associated with a State Funeral are borne by Protocol and International Engagement.

All enquiries relating to this policy or to the procedures should be directed to:

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