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DATE: 19 March 2026

The Hon Chris Bowen MP
Minister for Climate Change and Energy

The Hon Catherine King MP
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

The Hon Madeleine King MP
Minister for Resources and Northern Australia

The Hon Murray Watt MP
Minister for Emergency Management

The Hon Mark Butler MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care

SUBJECT: Supply Impacts on Essential Funeral Services in Regional Australia

Dear Ministers,

I write on behalf of Funerals Australia to raise emerging concerns regarding fuel supply and the potential impact on the delivery of essential funeral services, particularly in regional and rural Australia.

Funerals Australia represents funeral service providers across the country, many of whom operate in smaller regional communities where fuel availability is critical to the continuation of services. We are beginning to receive reports from some member firms that local fuel shortages are already being experienced in certain rural areas.

Funeral service providers are an essential community service and play a critical role in supporting families at the time of death. In many regional and remote parts of Australia, funeral directors are required to travel considerable distances, often hundreds of kilometres, to attend a place of death, transfer the deceased into care, and coordinate travel between locations such as churches, cemeteries or crematoria for the funeral service and committal.

Reliable access to fuel is therefore fundamental to ensuring these essential services can continue to operate respectfully and without disruption for grieving families and their communities.

While we appreciate that the national fuel supply situation is being closely monitored, we believe it would be prudent to begin considering how essential community services such as funeral care may be supported should fuel supply constraints intensify.



In particular, we would welcome the Government's guidance on how access to fuel for essential services may be managed in such circumstances, and whether funeral service providers may be recognised within any prioritisation arrangements that may be required if shortages continue to emerge in regional areas.

Funerals Australia is continuing to gather information from our member firms across the country and would be pleased to share this data with Government should it assist in understanding the situation on the ground.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your guidance as the situation develops.

Should you have any further questions, please contact me on 0458 267 222.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dale Gilson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dale Gilson
Chief Executive Officer