

Summary

This study compares the greenhouse gas emissions (GHG emissions) on a per cremation and per burial basis for the Geelong Cemeteries Trust.

Geelong Cemeteries Trust (GCT) conducted 1,781 cremations and 916 burials in the 2018/19 financial year.

This study is an extension of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions assessment conducted for GCT by Pangolin Associates in December 2019.

The comparison the different activities attributable to burials and cremations shows that the life cycle GHG emissions per cremation were determined to be 0.6 tCO₂-e; the GHG life cycle emissions per burial were 1.3 tCO₂-e (this includes the embodied emissions from the body, clothing and casket).

When the individual direct contributors to GHG emissions for the cremation and burial processes are compared (i.e. excluding embodied emissions from the body, clothing and casket), construction and maintenance of living memorials is the largest contributor to cremation emissions at 52%, followed by natural gas used in the crematorium at 15%. For burials, procurement and installation of headstones and memorials is the highest contributor to GHG emissions at 52%, followed by general repairs and maintenance at 12%

Due to the maintenance requirements for a burial site over the years and installation of headstones and memorials, emissions per burial are higher than emissions per cremation.

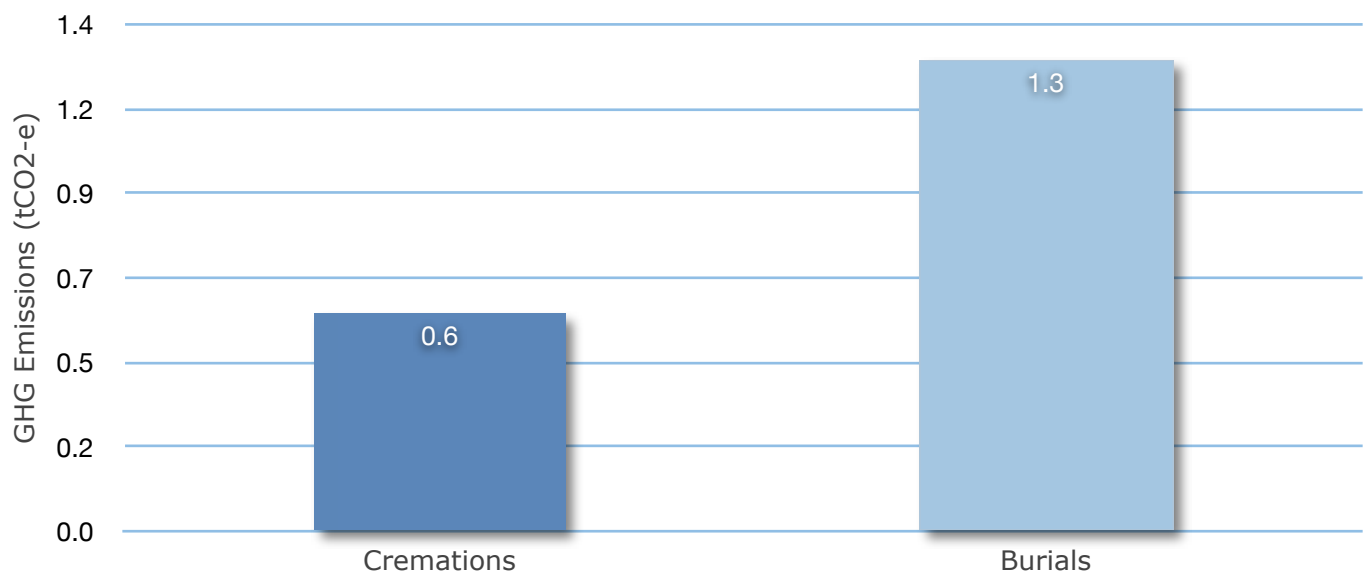


Figure 1 GHG emissions (tCO₂-e per cremation/burial) for Geelong Cemeteries Trust