

## BURIALS

# Back to nature

## Southern cemetery on cards

By Jake Dean

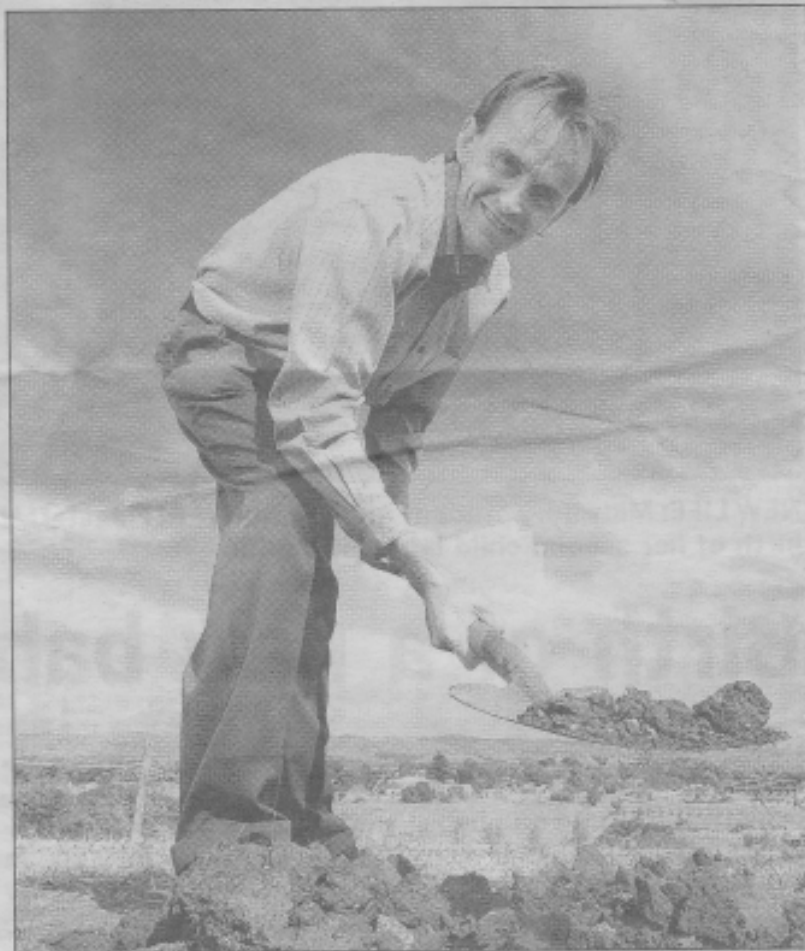
THE southern suburbs are closer to getting the state's first natural burial ground after a parliamentary inquiry gave the tick to a site at O'Halloran Hill.

The Environment, Resources and Development Committee report, released last month, recommended the State Government "establish or facilitate" natural burial grounds as an alternative to conventional cemeteries.

With natural burials, the body is buried in a biodegradable coffin or shroud, and trees or flowers are planted as a memorial instead of a headstone.

The report put O'Halloran Hill firmly on the agenda as a suitable location for a natural burial ground, recommending the State Government conduct discussions with land owners in southern Adelaide, "particularly in the O'Halloran Hill area". It also identified Glenthorne Farm as a location that should be explored with the University of Adelaide.

The report recommended the government check its land inventory for suitable



**ALTERNATIVE:** Kevin Hartley says Aldinga is the ideal place for a natural burial ground.

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sites, provide a grant of public land and provide seed funding to establish the ground. Fisher MP **Bob Such** (Ind), a committee member, called the report "a step forward". "In the south we've got probably one of the most serious shortages of burial places in the state."

Natural Burial Ground Society head and White Knight Funeral director **Kevin Hartley** said the committee's report was an "absolute endorsement" of a

proposed area at Bowering Hill, adjacent to the Aldinga Arts Eco-village. He said it was an ideal spot for a natural burial ground because it could be included in a proposed buffer zone between the urban and rural uses. Mr Hartley said he was meeting Planning Minister **Paul Holloway** this month to put forward the proposal.

Mr Holloway's media spokesman **Owen Brown** said the minister would consider the report's findings.