

SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

COUNCIL MEETING ON 28 MAY 2026

- 16. **OFFICERS' REPORTS:**
 - 16.4 Damage of the Ebbw Vale Memorial 3

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This matter has been determined to be of a significant nature and approval has been given to refer this report to the Council as a supplementary item.

ITEM: 16.4

SUBJECT: DAMAGE OF THE EBBW VALE MEMORIAL

AUTHOR: EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR

DATE: 26 MAY 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning recent damages to the Ebbw Vale War Memorial identified on 9 May 2026 where persons unknown caused significant damage to the stone soldier including removal of the head and hand holding a gun.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- A. That Council consider the need to offer a reward for information in relation to the wilful damage at Ebbw Vale Memorial Park and, if offering a reward, determine an appropriate amount.**
- B. That Council determine the preferred option of repair of the existing statue or replacement with a stock World War I 'Honour Digger' statue.**

RELATED PARTIES

There was no declaration of conflicts of interest.

IFUTURE THEME

A Trusted and Leading Organisation

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

On Thursday, 9 May 2026, the soldier memorial statue at Ebbw Vale Memorial Park was found to have been vandalised, resulting in substantial damage to the structure, including the complete loss of the head and gun.

Surveillance footage of the incident is not available; however, the matter has been reported to the Queensland Police Service (QPS). Investigations by QPS are currently ongoing.

Initial enquiries have identified two primary options to reinstate the memorial: repair or replacement. The repair option would involve undertaking an "indent type" repair, which is a targeted replacement of the damaged components to match the existing stone. These works must be completed by specialised stonemasons and would require the removal and transportation of the remaining statue to the repairer.

Due to the highly specialised nature of the work and current market demand, the estimated lead time for repair could be from three to nine months, following the procurement process. Additionally, repair costs are expected to be significantly higher than replacement with a stock statue due to the labour-intensive and skilled craftsmanship required, and further market testing will be necessary to determine more precise costs.

Alternatively, the replacement option involves substituting the damaged soldier statue with an “in stock” alternative. A World War I “Honour Digger” statue, approximately 1800mm high, has already been identified as available in the market, although a broader market scan may reveal other suitable options should Council wish to proceed.

The estimated cost for replacement is approximately \$13,200, excluding transportation and installation, and this option allows for a much shorter timeframe compared to repair.

However, community perception regarding the replacement of the original statue must be taken into consideration in determining the most appropriate option.



Additional costs for transportation and installation will apply under both repair and replacement options.

In line with the *Reward for Information Offered by Council Policy*, Council can consider offering a reward for information that may assist QPS in the conviction of the offender/s responsible for the damage to the statue. Advice from the QPS is that the investigation has pursued all potential sources of evidence and that an increased appeal to the community would be an avenue. QPS advice is for Council to promote Crimestoppers to the community for any available information including as a reward source. Crimestoppers is able to receive and act on anonymous sources of information.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Not applicable

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Reward for Information Offered by Council Policy

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Heritage approval requirements may impose additional design consultation or construction conditions, while unforeseen defects in the existing plinth or fixings could necessitate further structural works.

Engagement of a suitably qualified supplier will be undertaken in accordance with the Procurement and Contracts Manual.

The memorial may remain vulnerable to further vandalism if no additional protective measures are implemented.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Final project costs may exceed initial estimates due to specialist market pricing and the availability of heritage materials, and any insurance settlement may not fully cover the total replacement or repair expenses.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

The community has been requested to report any information to QPS or Crimestoppers to assist QPS in their investigations.

Advice has been sought from QPS on the progress of the investigation and further options.

CONCLUSION

Based on the nature and severity of the wilful damage to the Ebbw Vale Memorial Park soldier statue, and the current lack of available evidence or identified offenders, Council may wish to consider offering a reward for information that may assist QPS in progressing the investigation.

Council has the opportunity to replace the statue with a stock World War I 'Honour Digger' statue or repair the existing damaged statue.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS	
OTHER DECISION	
(a) What is the Act/Decision being made?	Council is to consider offering a reward for information and value of any such reward regarding vandalism at Ebbw Vale Memorial Park and determine whether to repair or replace the damaged statue.

(b) What human rights are affected?	No human rights are affected by this decision.
(c) How are the human rights limited?	Not applicable
(d) Is there a good reason for limiting the relevant rights? Is the limitation fair and reasonable?	Not applicable
(e) Conclusion	The decision is consistent with human rights.

Teagan Crowley
EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Seren McKenzie
GENERAL MANAGER (ASSET AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES)

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