



**Memo to:** Councillor Hawkins

**Copy to:** Mayor Watton, all Councillors, General Manager, Directors, Senior Leadership Group and Communications & Engagement Team

**From:** Cameron Clark, Acting Director Works and Infrastructure

**Subject:** Bellbird Memorial Park - Maintenance

**Date:** 13 February 2026

**Reference:** CRM 2171/2026 - DOC2026/017934

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Dear Councillor Hawkins

I refer to your enquiry on behalf of an Association, regarding maintenance at Bellbird Memorial Park.

*"The Association has recently been made aware of a complaint from a retired miner who visited the mining memorial at Bellbird Mine Memorial Park at Bellbird. He was appalled by the state of the park. It was in an unkempt and obviously neglected condition.*

*The grass required mowing and the gardens were in dire need of weeding.*

*The park is used for recreation, but more importantly it is a memorial to the twenty one miners who lost their lives in the Bellbird Mining Disaster of 1923 (the worst in the Northern District). It is disrespectful to these men and their families to see the park in need of attention.*

*The park is located on the main road to Wollombi. What message does the neglected condition of such an important memorial park send to visitors and tourists to our area.*

*If it is a problem for Council (who owns the park) to maintain this park we are aware that Council contracts organisations to maintain other parks. This could be one solution to the problem.*

*In the interest of public concern it would be appreciated if this issue could be addressed in a timely manner".*

Council officers have investigated the subject matter and advise as follows:

- Park maintenance has now been completed.
- The mowing schedule for Bellbird Memorial Park is fortnightly, however due to ground conditions and the Christmas shut down, scheduled maintenance was delayed.
- Fortnightly maintenance schedules have resumed however may be impacted at times by ground conditions.

Please note a copy of this memo will be uploaded to the Council website.