



Memo to: Councillor King

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: Cessnock War Memorial - Vandalism

Date: 13 February 2026

Reference: CRM 2967/2026 - DOC2026/025107

Dear Councillor King

I refer to your enquiry regarding vandalism at Cessnock War Memorial:

Good morning,

I am reporting further complaints about vandalism at the Cessnock war memorial.

Personally I find it to be very disrespectful to our diggers.

Can council please investigate and possibly give the community an update on the situation?

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

- Open Space and Community Facilities work crews identified homeless people had taken up residence at the park on Friday, 6 February at 6.30am.
- Council's Ranger services were contacted and all items were removed and the homeless person moved on by 11.00am.
- Vandalism has occurred to the cenotaph and Council is organising repairs.
- Should further instances of vandalism occur, or if the site continues to be used in ways that are not consistent with its intended purpose, Council staff will temporarily close the memorial to ensure it remains in suitable condition for Anzac Day.

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