

11.8 Request for repairs to Blackmans Vault

REPORT BY THE MANAGER - RECREATION SERVICES

TO 19 MAY 2021 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400088, PAR300623

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Manager - Recreation Services on the Request for repairs to Blackmans Vault;**
2. **note the content and recommendations within the National Trust's letter requesting repairs to Blackmans Vault; and**
3. **accept the request for repairs to Blackmans Vault as a submission to the draft Operational Plan 2021/22.**

Executive summary

The Gulgong Mudgee Rylstone Branch National Trust of Australia (NSW) is seeking Councils support to undertake repairs to Blackmans Vault located within Blackmans Park Mudgee.

This report recommends that Council consider the National Trusts request and allocate \$20,000 to undertake restoration work on the monument.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil.

Detailed report

Council received a letter from the Gulgong Mudgee Rylstone Branch National Trust of Australia (NSW) seeking Councils commitment to undertake repairs to Blackmans vault. Blackmans vault is located within Blackman Park, Mudgee.

Having consulted with local stonemasons it has been determined that replacement of the existing sandstone is the only viable option to aesthetically and safely restore the monument. Costs to undertake these works are estimate to be a value of up to \$20,000.

Councils Cemeteries Policy states that holder or the holder's personal representative shall be responsible for the maintenance, repair or removal of damaged or deteriorated memorial work. It also states that upon notification of a memorial to be maintained, if the holder fails to effect such work within 30 days the Council shall do so in default and recover the costs from the holder.

Given the historic and heritage value of Blackmans Vault, Council may consider the monument to be an outlier when compared to traditional monument responsibilities. This may also include acknowledging that the area was the site of Mudgee's first cemetery.

It is recommended that Council acknowledge the request from the Gulgong Mudgee Rylstone Branch National Trust and consider allocating funds to undertake necessary repairs to the monument.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Looking After Our Community
Goal	Vibrant towns and villages
Strategy	Respect and enhance the historic character of our Region and heritage value of our towns

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Not applicable

Council Policies

Cemeteries Policy

Legislation

Not applicable

Financial implications

To undertake restoration work to the vault Council would be required to allocate \$20,000 to the project. It is recommended that this work be considered in line with other submissions to the draft Operational Plan 2021/22, for appropriate prioritisation.

Associated Risks

Not applicable.

PETER RAINES
MANAGER - RECREATION SERVICES

SIMON JONES
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

5 May 2021

Attachments: 1. Request for repairs to Blackmans Vault, Blackman Park- National Trust.

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER



Gulgong Mudgee Rylstone Branch National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Mr Brad Cam
General Manager
Mid-Western Regional Council
PO Box 156 MUDGEES NSW 2850

REQUEST FOR REPAIRS TO BLACKMAN'S VAULT, BLACKMAN PARK

Dear Mr Cam

At the last meeting of the above Branch, the present condition of Blackman's Vault was discussed, and it was unanimously resolved to seek Council's commitment to effect repairs as soon as practicable.

As can be seen, the images below of sections of damage show it is more than moderate. Serious consideration to sympathetic early repairs would be more than advisable.

The historical and heritage value of this remarkable artefact cannot be overestimated – the remains not only of the first European to walk on our local lands are entombed on this site, but so are members of his immediate family, descendants of who still live in our region. Further, of course, this area was the site of Mudgee's first cemetery.



The Gulgong Mudgee Rylstone Branch of the National Trust looks forward to early attention to and sympathetic repairs and protection of this invaluable piece of our European history.

Yours sincerely



John Bentley
Chair
Gulgong Mudgee Rylstone Branch
National Trust of Australia (NSW)
30 January 2021