



Speech by

## Hon. Robert Swarten

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Hansard Thursday, 23 April 2009

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### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Queensland War Memorial Register

**Hon. RE SCHWARTEN** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology) (10.07 am): Mr Speaker, following on from your comments this morning, it is with great pride that I inform the House of the privilege of launching the Queensland War Memorial Register on Monday. On Remembrance Day last year our government made a commitment to develop an online war memorial register by Anzac Day this year. It was an ambitious time line given the nature and the scope of the project. I am pleased to announce that just five months later we have delivered on our commitment, with the user-friendly website launched ahead of this weekend's Anzac Day commemorations—another case of the Department of Public Works delivering on time and on budget. The online register will further honour Queenslanders who fought for our country, as well as provide an excellent resource for historians.

The Department of Public Works's Queensland Government Accommodation Office has been the driving force behind this worthwhile community project. I want to thank Mr Geoff Hughes and his team of excellent people who have worked beyond the call of duty almost, you could say, on this project. Our aim was to collect information of every war memorial that is the focus of local commemorative services or valued by a community. This could include cenotaphs, statues, columns, gates and memorial buildings. A vast array of information and images has been assembled, providing details of locations, inscriptions and the conflicts commemorated.

There are already 400 war memorials registered on the website at [www.qldwarmemorials.com.au](http://www.qldwarmemorials.com.au), with many more to be added. We believe there are about 1,000 out there. I would encourage anyone with an interest in Australian history to log on and have a look. It has been an enormous task involving a lot of work by local councils with the assistance of the RSL—and, Mr Speaker, Doug Formby, who you invited to this place the other day, has been a particular champion of this initiative—which has adjudicated on the inclusion of memorials on this register.

I would also acknowledge the outstanding contributions of a few individuals whose involvement has been crucial to the development of this website. Trevor and Shirley McIvor from Toowoomba, Dennis Stocks, Doug Tanner and Glen Hall have each provided information and images which have been invaluable. This is just the start and the Department of Public Works will continue to work with RSL Queensland and local councils to update and expand the register.

I say to honourable members that if they are aware of any memorials in their electorates that are not on the register to notify my office and we will make sure that that circumstance is rectified.