



Speech By  
**John Hathaway**


**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Jezzine Barracks

 **Mr HATHAWAY** (Townsville—LNP) (9.03 pm): I rise today to speak about the magnificent site of Jezzine Barracks in Townsville. The site, rich in military history, has been redeveloped and will be officially opened to the community this weekend. It has been many years in the making, including community consultation, planning and a complete overhaul and redevelopment of the military heritage site. The defence site was officially handed over by the Howard government to the Townsville City Council as the land trustees in July 2009. The brigadier's residence and the old barracks building have remained Commonwealth property. The barracks building has been redeveloped to house the North Queensland Army museum.

The Jezzine Barracks site was home to some of Australia's and North Queensland's famous military units for more than 120 years. Sites with strong military heritage values include the forts at Kissing Point, huts from World War II and the Army museum. Jezzine Barracks had for many years been home to one of Australia's oldest units of Queensland colonial forces, the Kennedy Regiment, whose lineage continues today in the 31/42 Battalion Royal Queensland Regiment. This battalion was the first unit mobilised and deployed from Australia during World War I to garrison Thursday Island due to concerns about the German military/naval threat in the Pacific.

The battalion carries 47 battle honours: one from the Boer War; 19 from World War I, including Somme, Bullecourt, Ypres, Amiens, Albert, Passchendale, to name a few; and 27 from World War II, including Porton, the Syrian frontier, Merjayun—where I have served with the UN—and Jezzine, the site from which it draws its name. It is crucial that this site maintains this military history and, in doing so, pays tribute to the men and women who have served in our defence forces and, in particular, those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and those who continue to serve today.

The state government has been honoured to be part of this wonderful project by providing financial support through a \$10 million grant. The joint partnership with the federal government and the Townsville City Council has allowed the site to maintain a visual balance of military heritage and Indigenous history. The site will also provide a venue for community events, while allowing Townsville residents to share in the sheer beauty of Jezzine Barracks and Kissing Point for generations to come.

One of the most beautiful sites is a new pedestrian connection between the Strand and the Rowes Bay esplanade along our foreshore. I would like to congratulate the Military Advisory Committee, the Jezzine Barracks Community Trust, the local community and our traditional owners for turning this historical site into a place that will be enjoyed and cherished by locals and tourists. I also encourage Townsville residents to discover Jezzine during the week long celebrations from this Saturday until Sunday, 13 April. The official opening ceremony will include a traditional owners' ceremony and the unveiling of the military interpretive elements and art.