




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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ADJOURNMENT

Upper Coomera War Memorial

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.24 pm): For over 100 years, the Upper Coomera cenotaph has stood proudly to remind all those who pass of the sacrifice local diggers have made in World War I and World War II and more recent conflicts. The cenotaph was first unveiled on 18 May 1918 under the watchful gaze of William A Foxwell and Sir Edward Henry Macartney MLA. This cenotaph is a testament to a grieving community desperately wanting to honour their loved ones who are buried in faraway lands. This sandstone memorial stands on granite blocks at the entrance of the former Bonnie Brae property, now known as the corner of Tamborine Oxenford Road and Charlies Crossing Road North.

In recent years we have seen a massive increase in development in the area, and this has placed enormous pressures on our local road network, especially on Tamborine Oxenford Road. The recent development of a new fuel station on Tamborine Oxenford Road near the cenotaph has made the situation for motorists leaving Charles Crossing Road North even more precarious. The department of main roads recently informed my office that they wish to work with the community to upgrade this intersection and that, as part of this upgrade, the cenotaph will need to be moved.

I am very hesitant to move a cenotaph that has stood for over 100 years, and many residents have expressed this view. I also understand that making this intersection safer and limiting the chance of a fatality is critically important. Residents have suggested placing the cenotaph at the centre of a roundabout near its current location at this upgraded intersection to allow free-flowing traffic. Others have suggested moving it to John Siganto Park or Highland Reserve Park. The local RSL has suggested it should be relocated to the Upper Coomera Community Centre. The Rotary Club of Coomera Valley has asked it to be moved to parkland between the two lakes. As you can hear, there are many opinions on this matter. Therefore, I ask the department and the minister to remember these words on the cenotaph—

They gave their all.

Let you who pass, saluting here their names,

See that through you no slur, nor stain, nor shame

Falls on the land for which they gave their lives—

Australia

It was the original intent for the cenotaph to be located in a place clearly visible to all who pass and to be a continual reminder of those who gave their lives for Australia. I would like to thank the local Rotary club for all their work over the years in hosting the Anzac Day ceremony there. Their input is valuable. We do need to make sure that the cenotaph is in a position that can be well recognised for generations to come. As it is World Teachers' Day tomorrow, I wish to thank all my local teachers.