



Speech By  
**Terry James**

**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2026

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Gordonvale RSL, Cenotaph**



**Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (3.00 pm): Small things can make a big difference.

**Mr Stevens:** That's you, Terry.

**Mr JAMES:** Absolutely. I was recently approached by the Gordonvale RSL Sub Branch seeking assistance to reinstate the power supply to the cenotaph located at Norman Park. The cenotaph is owned by the Cairns Regional Council and jointly maintained by council and the RSL sub branch. While the monument previously had an operational power supply, it was removed some time ago. Although the original electrical pit remains, the power supply has never been restored. The council has granted permission to the RSL sub branch to reconnect the power and has indicated that it may consider contributing to future budgets. However, no funding is currently allocated. The estimated cost to reinstate the power supply—including safety switches and a lockable box—is around \$10,000.

The Gordonvale RSL Sub Branch conducts Anzac Day, Remembrance Day, Vietnam Veterans' Day and several other commemorative services at this cenotaph each year. These ceremonies are deeply significant community events that provide an opportunity for residents to come together, reflect and honour the service and sacrifice of those who have served our nation.

In 2025, Anzac Day services at Gordonvale attracted more than 5,000 attendees across two ceremonies. This strong and growing attendance reflects increasing community engagement, driven in part by rapid population growth in our patch, and highlights the need for appropriate infrastructure to support these community events. Currently the RSL is forced to run a long extension lead across a busy road to power essential equipment during services. This practice represents a serious safety risk to volunteers, attendees and passing traffic and is simply unacceptable for an event of this importance.

The Gordonvale RSL Sub Branch is also undertaking a major refurbishment of its building, with around 80 per cent of the labour provided by members themselves—many of whom are over 70 years of age. The sub branch works tirelessly to raise funds through various means. Despite these efforts, they do not have the capacity to fund the power reinstatement. Restoring permanent power to the cenotaph is essential to ensure public safety, support dignified commemorative services and protect the long-term functionality of this important community asset. I am working closely with the RSL to advocate for funds for this important project.