

**Question on Notice  
No. 1761  
Asked on 11 November 2009**

MS CROFT asked the Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology (MR SCHWARTEN)-

**QUESTION:**

As today is Remembrance Day, and many Queenslanders will gather at war memorials to remember the sacrifices made for our freedoms, will the Minister advise how the Queensland Government is assisting communities in restoring cenotaphs and war memorials and historic buildings?

**ANSWER:**

I am pleased to advise that since 2004, the Community Memorials Restoration Program has provided \$2.9 million to restore more than 240 memorials across Queensland. Funding of \$600,000 for 2009-2010 has recently been announced and Expressions of Interest closed on 4 December 2009.

Since the Program commenced, grants have gone towards the restoration and repair of local monuments including memorials, cenotaphs, community buildings, honour boards, historical markers, plaques, fountains, statues and memorial gardens.

The Program provides dollar for dollar funding up to \$25,000 to regional councils and community organisations to assist them to preserve, restore and repair their local memorials and icons.

For example in early 2008, the Program contributed \$25,000 to landscape and further enhance the Runaway Bay Cenotaph in the Broadwater electorate. This project provided much needed shade sails to protect the veterans and the public at commemorative events.

The Government has also proudly contributed \$18,500 to help refurbish and re-landscape the RSL War Memorial and 61<sup>st</sup> Battalion Queensland Cameron Highlanders in Ashgrove. In early November 2009, the bell of the Mother of Good Counsel Church in Innisfail rang again following the Government's contribution of \$19,250 towards its restoration. On 21 November 2009, the historic grandstand at the Mt Perry race track re-opened with the assistance of \$25,000 of grant funding.

The Program was recently expanded to assist local government and community groups to undertake projects to research, document, reinstate and restore cemeteries. The Flinders Shire Council and the Moreton Bay Regional Council are among those to take advantage of dollar for dollar funding of up to \$15,000 to record and digitise historical records in their local cemeteries.

The Program's contribution to communities has been further enhanced by the establishment of the Queensland War Memorials Register in April 2009. The Register is found online at [www.qldwarmemorials.com.au](http://www.qldwarmemorials.com.au) and now lists 1,050 war memorials. The Register brings further recognition to the importance of the memorials located throughout Queensland, their significance to local communities and the importance of their preservation.

The Register describes memorials such as community cenotaphs and 'Digger' statues, which recognise the individual service and sacrifice of Queenslanders by name, conflict and location. It also includes honour boards and memorial plaques that are located in historic memorial and community halls and other commemorative precincts. As the Register has continued to expand, inclusions now cover memorial trees, RSL commemorations and war trophies such as field guns.

The assistance of the community has been encouraging and many memorials that have not previously been recognised outside local communities have been made available to all Queensland communities. The number of memorials listed has increased gradually over time, and will continue to expand.

All communities are encouraged to consult with the Register and contact the Department of Public Works if their significant memorials have not yet been listed. This ongoing process will result in a complete record of Queensland's war memorials and a significant space for the inclusion of future commemorative sites.