




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Upper Coomera War Memorial

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.25 pm): I rise here tonight to speak about a topic that I have spoken about in the parliament many times—the Upper Coomera cenotaph. The Upper Coomera cenotaph has stood proudly for over 100 years in its current location. There have been many discussions between Main Roads, the Coomera Valley Rotary and Gold Coast City council about the relocation of this historically important and much loved monument. Due to the desperate need for a safety upgrade of the intersection of Charlies Crossing Road North and Tamborine Oxenford Road, Main Roads officers will need to move the cenotaph.

Coomera Valley Rotary Club, the custodians of the cenotaph, host the annual Anzac Day ceremony there and have done so for many decades. This ceremony attracts thousands of residents and is very dear to my local community. Many school students also participate in the service. It is seen as a symbol of pride for both students, parent and the ex-service men and women who attend. Coomera Valley Rotary members have valid concerns about the viability of future Anzac Day services if the cenotaph is placed in a location that hinders this important event. They are seeking assurances from the minister and the Department of Transport and Main Road that the new home of the cenotaph will allow Anzac Day services to continue around the cenotaph as they do at the moment. Equally important, they want to ensure that the cenotaph is easily seen by passing motorists.

The inscription on the cenotaph reads—

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 wish of local families over 100 years ago that the cenotaph and inscription be clearly visible from the road. Therefore, the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Gold Coast City council need to work together to ensure a suitable site, even if it requires resuming a small parcel of land. We have a wonderful opportunity to leave a lasting legacy for many generations to come. I ask the minister to please take heed of this and instruct his department to leave a legacy that he can be proud of. I invite all members of the chamber when travelling to Mount Tamborine via Tamborine Oxenford Road to look at the cenotaph. It is something that our local community is very proud of. It is just past the falling riverbank on the John Muntz Bridge. Members would then get to see two sites of the Theodore electorate.