

Borneo Barracks' future is back in spotlight

By **TIM BRABAN**
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A DEFENCE force progress report released on Tuesday has reignited concerns about the future of Borneo Barracks at Cabarlah.

The initial report comes from a defence force posture review which is currently being undertaken by former defence secretaries Allen Hawke and Ric Smith. The progress report again refers to the possibility of "rationalising" or closing some defence bases, including the one at Cabarlah.

Currently the 7 Signals Regiment is based at the barracks. The report states the Edinburgh Army Base in South Australia could be used as an alternative location for the unit and the Defence School of Signals Electronic Warfare Wing. "A recent joint EW capability



POSSIBLE CLOSURE: Concerns have again been raised about the possible closure of Borneo Barracks at Cabarlah. PICTURE: DAVE NOOMAN

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study recommended that the Defence Force School of Signals EW Wing currently co-located with 7 Signals Regiment at Cabarlah could be relocated to Edinburgh,” the report stated.

Community advocate Mac Stirling said any decision to close Borneo Barracks would be a catastrophe. Mr Stirling said the closure of the base at Cabarlah would see

more than \$100 million and 800 jobs taken out of the Toowoomba region's economy.

“The effect on the local economy in Toowoomba would be immense,” he said.

Member for Toowoomba North Kerry Shine said he would actively lobby the federal government to keep the barracks open.

“We don't want to lose any bases from anywhere in Queensland, let alone in my electorate,” Mr Shine said.

INBRIEF

Mt Morgan students

● PAST students of Mount Morgan State High School and Mount Morgan Central State School now living in Toowoomba are invited to celebrate the 100th and 125th anniversaries this year.

Main celebrations will take place on May 5 to coincide with the annual Golden Mount Festival. For more information contact Kevin Crawford on 4612 5555.

Have a say on park

● TOOWOOMBA Regional Council has commissioned a new master plan for the future of Queens Park.

Members of the community are invited to have their say and share their ideas on the future of what is Toowoomba's most significant civic and historical park.

People are invited to a community meet in the park on Sunday, February 19 from 10am to 1pm at the Lindsay St side of the park near the craft market. Stage one community feedback closes March 1. To make a comment or to find out more information, email queenspark@gam.com.au.

Annual meeting

● THE Toowoomba Spinners, Weavers and Dyers Inc is holding its Annual General Meeting at the Homestead Building, Toowoomba Showgrounds from 10am Thursday, February 16. Anyone interested is invited to attend. Inquiries to Joy Cook 4635 4344.

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