



The Hon Victor Dominello MP

Minister for Citizenship and Communities
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 2 September 2011

NSW GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS RESTORATION OF LOCAL MEMORIAL AT BEECROFT

Minister responsible for Veterans' Affairs Victor Dominello MP today committed the NSW Government to assist the restoration of the recently damaged "Australia Remembers" War Memorial at Beecroft.

The bronze plaque was stolen from the Memorial and the sandstone was maliciously damaged.

"The O'Farrell Government will support the Epping RSL Sub Branch through a grant of \$6,721 to cover the costs of a new plaque and its installation, as well as repairs and cleaning to the memorial sandstone," Minister Dominello said.

Minister Dominello was joined at the site today by local Member for Epping and Attorney General, Greg Smith SC MP, and Mayor of Hornsby Shire Council, Councillor Nick Berman.

"War memorials in every town and suburb are our silent testimony of the many thousands from NSW who sadly didn't return from war," Minister Dominello said.

"The Beecroft 'Australia Remembers' War Memorial plaque paid tribute to our nation's courageous sons and daughters who fought for our freedom. It also acknowledged the valiant work of those who tirelessly supported our Defence Forces on the home front.

"The removal of the precious tribute and the senseless vandalism and desecration to the Memorial stone is difficult to comprehend – and should not be tolerated," Minister Dominello said.

Member for Epping Greg Smith SC MP said the memorial was very important to the local community and he was pleased the O'Farrell Government was able to assist.

"This memorial honours the courage and mateship of those who fought to protect our freedom," Mr Smith said.

"The people of Epping are very respectful of the sacrifices made by past servicemen and women and will no doubt support speedy restoration work."

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Kristen Kelly 0408 592 793