

# Call to close barracks

Alyssa Kimlin | 18th February 2010

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AUSTRALIAN Defence Association executive director Neil James says Cabarlah's Borneo Barracks must close for the good of the nation's defence.

Mr James said there were two key factors in the need to close down the Cabarlah barracks.

"There is the strategic need of Australia and what is best for the nation's taxpayers," he said.

"The unit based there now (the 7th Signal Regiment) would be better off based with other electrical warfare units.

"Moving it would actually improve Australia's defence capabilities."

He said those opposing the closure of the base were looking at it purely from an economic cost to Toowoomba.

Mr James said this wasn't fair on Australian taxpayers.

"The defence force doesn't exist to boost local economies — it is there to defend the nation," he said.

"Why should taxpayers pay to prop up the Toowoomba economy?"

While developers in the region object to the closure based on economic cost, Mr James said the closure could have a positive impact.

"If it (the barracks) was to shift, the land would be open for development," he said. "That would put money back into the economy."

Cabarlah isn't on its own with the threat of closure.

Woodside Barracks in the Adelaide Hills and the RAAF base at Richmond, New South Wales, are under scrutiny as well.

## Poll

### Should Cabarlah's Borneo Barracks close?

Yes

No

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