

# Coalition pledges to keep barracks at Cabarlah

An Abbott Coalition Government would retain the Borneo Barracks at Cabarlah.

Member for Groom Ian Macfarlane and Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Stuart Robert made the commitment to the future of the base last week.

Mr Macfarlane said the Coalition recognised the important contribution the Borneo Barracks makes to both Australia's Defence Force and to the local community.

Mr Macfarlane said Borneo Barracks has a long association with Toowoomba and the Darling Downs and has been a part of our region since 1942.

"Bases such as the Borneo Barracks play an

important role in integrating the Defence Force with the local community and attracting and retaining skilled employees.

"An Abbott Government would be committed to keeping it here on the Darling Downs. Mr Macfarlane said a Coalition Government would provide certainty for the long term future of the base. "An Abbott Government would retain the barracks at Cabarlah and allow it to continue the important role it plays in Australia's defence."

Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Stuart Robert said retaining the Borneo Barracks at Cabarlah was in the national interest.

"The Borneo Barracks plays a significant role in

ensuring Australia's national security," Mr Robert said.

"The Coalition believes that role should continue to be fulfilled from its current location."

A socio-economic report released by the Department of Defence in 2007 estimated that the total economic benefit of the base to the local community was \$92.6 million. It also found that the barracks generated 845 jobs, made up of around 400 full-time equivalent staff and around 445 indirect jobs in the local community.

"Borneo Barracks should stay at Cabarlah, not just in the interest of the local community, but to the ongoing benefit of the Australian Defence Force," Mr Robert said.

