



## Darwin Cenotaph redevelopment proposal

Bicentennial Park and the existing Darwin Cenotaph are areas treasured by the community, especially locals who have ties to the military and previous wars.

### Project

Darwin RSL proposed to redevelop the Darwin Cenotaph located in Bicentennial Park at The Esplanade. Reinvigorating the Cenotaph was of great importance to Darwin RSL as the Cenotaph commemorates the sacrifice of Australian servicemen and women who have served in conflicts in which Australia has been involved. Darwin is the only capital city in Australia that does not have an eternal flame at its Cenotaph.

The proposed redevelopment included:

- removing old flagpoles and relocating and installing 14 metre flagpoles
- constructing a disabled access ramp to the Cenotaph
- erecting an eternal flame on a four metre high column
- removing seven trees from the proposed site, including four Milkwood trees
- trimming several trees near the proposed monument site
- installing a 12 metre Bombing of Darwin monument
- installing six interpretive walls with etched stories and imagery telling the Bombing of Darwin story.

As independent consultants, True North was engaged by Darwin RSL to develop an engagement strategy and consult with the community and key stakeholders on the proposal. We prepared a range of communication materials, including a direct letter, media release, fact sheet and a map illustrating the concept design. To capture feedback, we conducted one-on-one meetings with key stakeholders and held a community event.



### Challenges

The proposed location of the monument at Bicentennial Park is historically significant as it overlooks Darwin Harbour where servicemen left from during World War I and where many died during the Bombing of Darwin in World War II. It is also located on the site where the guns of the 14th Anti-Aircraft Battery were positioned and fired the first shots in defence of Darwin during World War II.

There was a strong community sentiment that the character of the area should be maintained, with the proposed monument design and plan to remove several trees, including four Milkwood trees the key areas of concern.

### Outcome

Following the consultation program, we prepared an independent report for Darwin RSL which outlined the feedback gathered during the consultation process. The report was made public and considered by the City of Darwin who recommended that Darwin RSL work with the Bombing of Darwin and Military History Advisory Committee to revise the renewal concept to reflect community feedback. City of Darwin also provided in principle support for the renewal of the Darwin Cenotaph subject to the revision of the concept, as well as recommendations that a further report be presented to Council following the resolution of the revised renewal concept. Darwin RSL has since prepared a new concept based on the feedback received during this consultation process.

