**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP**

**Bombing of Darwin Commemorative Service**

**Rose Garden, City of Cockburn RSL Sub Branch**

**Frederick Road, Hamilton Hill**

**Friday, 18 February 2021**

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Distinguished guests, Veterans, the serving men and women of the Australian Defence Force, ladies and gentlemen.

Today is not a day generally in the psyche of Australians unless you are a Veteran or in some other way you or your family have a connection to that fateful day when the northern mainland of Australia was attacked.

Attacked by a determined Japanese military with the aim of pushing as far south and into Australia as possible.

They had already won all their encounters to date surprising the world with their powerful military forces that did not know the meaning of defeat.
From all reports Darwin will be alive with the largest commemorative service in Australia reflecting the Bombing of Darwin and other towns across northern Australia.

The military and civilian casualties during those attacks are a stark reminder that we need to remain vigilant at all times given the observation or spotting of these aircraft were initially thought to be of a friendly nature and the sirens only being sounded as Darwin came under attack.

In today’s world, there is a continuing focus on military security and bio security. The gathering and interpretation of information in a complex and forever changing environment spreading from Darwin to all points of the region.

Power struggles and posturing are part of everyday life with nations such as China, Indonesia, the United States of America, Russia; and even North Korea letting the world know what they are capable of, if pushed.

Today the people of Darwin live in an idyllic setting while welcoming the many thousands of visitors from across mainland Australia, particularly during the current pandemic.

So while we commemorate this day each year and remember the atrocities of war it is also a time to look forward to the opportunities for tourism, trade and other export orientated businesses that represent a significant boost to the Territory and Australian economies.
As always, are thoughts are with our Veterans and serving men and women no matter the war or conflicts they have endured or continue to be involved in.

You remain now and always as a poignant reminder of our nation being prepared to defend itself and other like-minded nations and their peoples.

Lest we forget.