The Government has reached an agreement with Northern Mining Ltd which will preserve the heritage values of Pine Creek while allowing a proposed mine to proceed.

Acting Environment and Heritage Minister Dr Chris Burns said the agreement means that Northern Mining will relocate a Chinese oven from the Old Pine Creek Chinatown to the town of Pine Creek before any exploration or mining occurs at the proposed new mine.

An interim conservation order has been in place since late last year while the heritage values of the Old Pine Creek Chinatown were being assessed.

“After a vigorous assessment process, including a visit from Minister Marion Scrymgour, the Government has decided to protect an important part of Pine Creek’s heritage,” Dr Burns said.

“This solution also means that mining will now be able to occur – providing an economic boost for the Pine Creek community.”

The near intact Chinese oven is considered to be of major significance, being one of only a few remaining in the Northern Territory. These types of ovens have only been found on a few sites in Australia.

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