Len Kiely
MINISTER FOR PARKS AND WILDLIFE

14 January 2008

Alice Springs WWII Sites Heritage Lists

The Territory Government has declared significant World War II sites at Alice Springs as heritage places.

Heritage Minister Len Kiely today announced seven WWII sites near Spencer Hill, including a detention compound, magazine store and kitchen site, would be heritage listed.

Mr Kiely said Alice Springs played a vital role during WWII in the supply of operational units to the north.

"The Spencer Hill sites were established from 1942 after the arrival of the 147 and 148 Australian General Transport Companies and served as camp areas to accommodate personnel.

"The sites are of great historical significance and also have important cultural and spiritual associations for the Traditional Owners of the area.

"Spencer Hill was declared a sacred site in 1998 for its meaning to the Arrente people.

"The Territory Government is committed to preserving our unique war history to ensure people don’t forget the important role we played.

"The sites serve to remind us of Alice Springs’ wartime history and they will be preserved and protected well into the future," Mr Kiely said.

Other sites to be listed include the power station, concrete slab, concrete slab inscribed and the vehicle maintenance site.

The Spencer Hill heritage listing follows a recommendation by the Heritage Advisory Council with the support of the Central Land Council.