Archaeological Investigation Begins In Darwin CBD

Heritage Minister Alison Anderson today said an archaeological investigation in Darwin’s central business district is set to dig up much of Darwin’s unknown past.

“Darwin has a rich and unique past – some of which we don’t know about,” Ms Anderson said.

“The archaeological investigation will take place on the vacant lot behind the heritage-listed Sue Wah Chin building in Darwin’s CBD.

“The stone Sue Wah Chin building along Cavenagh St was built in the 1880s and is the only surviving structure associated with nineteenth century Chinatown.

“A test trench dug recently behind the building by heritage officers within the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, Heritage, the Arts and Sport (NRETAS) found what appears to be a piece of fish bone, charcoal and broken glass and it is likely further archaeological evidence exists.

“Northern Territory development company Gwelo Developments Pty Ltd own the site and is supporting this important investigation before any development begins, for which I thank Gwelo.

“This investigation will help us document all evidence of past occupation and enhance our understanding of Darwin’s early development.

“The archaeological program is set to be completed before the end of 2008 with off-site analysis continuing after fieldwork.

“The public will be able to visit the site on open days and ask heritage officers questions during the course of the investigation.”