Piece of Wartime History Unearthed in Darwin CBD

Heritage Minister Karl Hampton today announced that a depression on the corner of McMinn and Bennett Streets in the Darwin CBD during recent road works is a World War II bomb crater.

“World War II is an important part of the Territory’s history and identity; this exciting discovery provides a living reminder of our past,” Mr Hampton said.

“Following recent works to widen McMinn Street, workers came across a site resembling a bomb crater. The NT Government commissioned a survey and excavation of the site, which sought to locate bomb fragments, or any other material that may help identify the site.

“I am pleased to announce today that based on the historic and stratigraphic data on site, the results of this report indicates that the site is most likely a bomb crater,” Mr Hampton said.

NT Archaeologist Dr Silvano Jung conducted the excavations and report, which concludes that the crater could be from the 19 February Japanese Air Raid.

“188 planes were involved in the first raid of 19 February 1942 and of all the hundreds of bombs dropped on Darwin that day, this is the only known remaining bomb crater in the city,” Mr Hampton said.

“The site is therefore highly significant and the Department of Construction and Infrastructure will be working with the Heritage Branch to landscape the site in an appropriate fashion and install interpretive signage.”

Mr Hampton said that the site could also be in line for statutory protection.

“The NT Government is committed to preserving historical sites to keep our unique Territory history alive for future generations.

“Once nominated for heritage status, the Heritage Advisory Council will be assessing as to whether heritage listing is required for the site.”

“Territorians are proud of our unique history, and we now have another attraction no other capital city can match: an authentic World War II bomb crater.”

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