Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment, Peter Chandler, said today preservation of stand-out historic sites is important for Territorians to gain an understanding of their past.

“Heritages places and buildings are also significant to our tourism industry, and sites within the Darwin CBD are special as points of interest for visitors who may not travel around the Territory, like cruise ship passengers, who only have a day in the city.”

Mr Chandler announced plans to undertake conservation work at the historic Lyons Cottage on the Esplanade.

“Lyons Cottage was built for the Eastern Extension Australasian and China Telegraph Company Ltd in 1925. It was the residence of the company engineer. The cottage was built of local ‘hammered stone’ and has a unique design reminiscent of English colonial models developed in India, Malaya and Singapore,” Mr Chandler said.

“The Government is the single largest owner of heritage places and objects, it is essential that we lead by example and maintain them in a good condition,” Mr Chandler said.

The work, estimated to cost $420,000, will be funded through the Northern Territory Government’s Conservation Program for government-owned heritage assets. Roof shingles, installed after Cyclone Tracy, will be removed and replaced and some external and internal repairs and painting will be done. Work is expected to start next month and will be completed by 30 September 2013.

Other conservation projects undertaken this financial year include:

- Repairs to the verandah and roof at Blyth Homestead, Litchfield National Park;
- Electrical repairs at Fannie Bay Gaol, Darwin;
- Roof replacement on the Old Courthouse building, Alice Springs;
- Stonemasonry work to the Buggy Shed at Alice Springs Telegraph Station;
- Stonemasonry work at Arltunga Historical Reserve;
- Repairs and repainting to the former Heavi Tree Gap Police Station, Alice Springs and;
- Repairs and repainting to the Bullita Station Homestead and Stockyard, Judbarra/Gregory National Park.

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