Conservation works set to improve Town Hall Ruins

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Conservation works to improve the Town Hall Ruins located in the Darwin CBD are due to begin today.

Lands and Planning Minister David Tollner said the NT Government is pleased to support the works at the heritage listed Town Hall Ruins with $414,000 funding.

“The Ruins are highly valued by the Darwin community and symbolise the consolidation of Darwin as a city and the provision of local government for residents,” he said.

“The remnant walls at the Town Hall Ruins not damaged by Cyclone Tracy were retained and stabilised in 1980.

“The concentric internal paving was added as a symbol of the destructive forces of the cyclone and the ruins now play a part in the public space of Darwin, and are used during festivals and public entertainments.”

The conservation work will be carried out by a qualified stonemason, and will include stabilisation of the foundations and walls, replacing damaged stone, mortar, render and architectural features.

Work at the site is expected to be completed by 30 June with the Town Hall Ruins to be closed to the public during this time.

The works will be funded through the NT Government’s Conservation Program for government owned heritage assets.

Other conservation projects undertaken this year include:

- WWII Observation Post at Lee Point - repair spalling concrete and provide a protective coating
- Adelaide River Railway station - repair to the verandahs, shutter windows, frames and roof
- Fannie Bay gaol - repair and repaint the kitchen/mess/store building
• WWII Gun Turret at the Defence of Darwin Museum - replace the existing non-compliant safety barriers and repair spalling concrete in the roof over the public main entrance

• Qantas/Guinea Airways Hangar – upgrade electrical switchboards to comply with current standards

• Lyons Cottage – upgrade fire alarm system

• Tennant Creek Telegraph Station – stabilise stone fireplace and chimney

• Barrow Creek Telegraph Station – replace in ground water tank cover, repair verandah and termite treat buildings

• Heavitree Gap Police Station, Alice Springs – repair to walls, roof, doors and air conditioning

• Old Courthouse, Alice Springs – upgrade internal lighting

“Our heritage properties are very important assets that help to define the Territory’s past,” Mr Tollner said.

“The NT Government is the largest owner of heritage places and objects so it’s important that we continue to maintain these valued assets in a good condition.”

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