Darwin’s iconic gun turret undergoes critical repair work

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One of Darwin's iconic World War II sites has undergone critical repairs works to improve the longevity of the historic site.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said the gun turret at Defence of Darwin Experience has received new stairs and safety barriers as well as treatment to its concrete cancer.

"The Northern Territory Government is supporting the work at the heritage-listed gun turret with $276,000 in funding through our Conservation Program for Government owned heritage assets," he said.

"The fortifications at East Point were the first fixed defences of Darwin, built in 1932-34 to protect the naval oil depot. "They were further developed in the late 1930s as a response to the Japanese threat and were one of the targets in Japanese air raids on 19 February 1942."

"These air raids were the first international armed conflict on Australian soil."

Work has also been completed on sections of deteriorated concrete which have been replaced, and upgraded drainage systems which will reduce internal flooding on the gun turret and help preserve it.

"The NT Government will continue to provide safe public access to these heritage properties that help define the Territory's past," Lands and Planning Minister David 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."

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
- 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
Chief Minister Adam Giles also highlighted *The Territory Remembers* community grants program which opened this week.

"*The Territory Remembers* program is a commemoration of the World War II history of the NT and the Government has allocated $2.25 million in funding for the program.

"As part of the program, the Community Grants Program aimed at providing assistance to those wanting to undertake appropriate commemorative projects this year and in 2017," Mr Giles said.

"The community grants provide for memorial projects and events. The Memorial Grants will provide for individual projects of up to $25,000 and the Community Events Grants are for up to $10,000 each."

Applications for the grants close on 3 June with successful applications announced late July. For more information, go to www.territoryremembers.nt.gov.au (http://www.territoryremembers.nt.gov.au/)

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