The Heritage Advisory Council will oversee a review of the Northern Territory’s Heritage legislation over the next 18 months.

Infrastructure, Planning and Environment Minister Kon Vatskalis told Parliament yesterday the Government takes its commitment to the heritage of the Northern Territory seriously.

"It has been some time now since the Heritage Act was reviewed and it is timely to do so," Mr Vatskalis said.

"The terms of reference will be issued in the near future and all members of the community will be asked to express their view."

Mr Vatskalis also announced several new members of the council.

Historian and consultant Bob Alford has been appointed chairman. Central Australian architect Sue Dugdale, Arrente woman Leshay Maidment and Principal Research Fellow at the Northern Territory University Dr Peter Whitehead are the new members of the council.

The returning members are National Trust representative Elizabeth Close, director of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Anna Malgorzewicz, Katherine’s Ruth Murphy, chief executive officer of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority Dr David Ritchie and departmental representative Vic Stephens.

Brief Biographies for members of Heritage Advisory Council

Newly appointed members:

Bob Alford (Chairman)

Bob is an historian and consultant with a background in the research and documentation of the history and heritage of the northern Australia. He has an extensive bibliography, chiefly on heritage and the aviation and history, including the best-selling 1992 book *Darwin’s Air War*.

Bob has lived in Darwin for nearly 20 years and began surveying WWII military sites in 1986. He became the National Trust research office in 1989 and prepared the interpretive material that was placed at WWII sites around the Territory as part of the 1992 *War Service Memorial Year*.

Bob was appointed Director of the National Trust in 1993. He served on the Heritage Advisory Council and a number of committees including the NT Heritage Trails Steering Committee and was Chair of the *Australia Remembers* program for the Territory. Bob is active in a variety of community organisations, he is the Public Officer and founding member of the Professional Historians Association (NT), President of the Aviation Historical Society of the NT and Secretary of the Thai and Australian Friendship Association.

Bob works actively in the assessment of heritage places, conservation planning and in particular the development of interpretive schemes for heritage places.
Sue Dugdale

Sue is an award-winning architect who has worked in Central Australia for nearly a decade. Until recently she worked for Tangentyere Design, at the forefront of developing functional and appropriate buildings for Aboriginal communities. Sue has a strong interest in energy efficient and appropriate design, recycling and innovative reuse of buildings. Sue also has a vital interest in the conservation of heritage as a source of ideas for good design, as well as for its own sake. She has incorporated this into her teaching of design at universities in three states. She has recently developed an interpretive master plan for the Alice Springs Telegraph Station.

Leshay Maidment

Leshay is young Arrente woman who is an active member of the Alice Springs community. Involved in sport at a representative level she has a well developed network in Alice Springs. She has contributed to the community, in particular through youth leadership and mentoring programs. Leshay follows central Australian heritage matters closely and brings an aboriginal and non-aboriginal perspective to issues of conserving places important to the community.

Dr Peter Whitehead

Peter is currently Principal Research Fellow at the Northern Territory University and Director of the ARC Key Centre for Tropical Wildlife Management as well as Roy and Marjorie Edwards Senior Research Fellow. He is a biologist with excellent credentials and an ongoing active interest in biological research.

Peter has an active interest in conservation and management and has had a pivotal role at the forefront of establishing policy for wildlife conservation in the Territory. He is also a strong advocate of ecologically sustainable development

Existing (returning) members

Ms Elizabeth Close was appointed as the National Trust representative in April 1999 after she took up the position of Director of the Trust. She is particularly interested in increasing public awareness of the Territory’s unique heritage

Ms Anna Malgorzewicz is the Director of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. She has worked in the heritage field for many years and her special areas of interest include migration history and heritage.

Ms Ruth Murphy has been a member of Council since late 1996 and is from an old Katherine family. Her particular interests lie in the history and preservation of representative samples of the early lifestyles of the Katherine and rural area, and in the pastoral history of the NT.

Dr David Ritchie is the Chief Executive Officer of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and is a founding member of the Heritage Advisory Council. David currently serves on the Archaeology and Heritage Grants sub-committees. His area of expertise is the prehistory and history of the Northern Territory.
Mr Vic Stephens was appointed as the representative of the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment in February 1999. His interest is in Territory history and place names and in achieving the balance between heritage values and development needs in a rapidly growing community.