PUSH FOR WWII NATIONAL HERITAGE LISTING

Environment and Heritage Minister Marion Scrymgour will today lobby the Federal Environment Minister for national listing of World War II sites in the Northern Territory.

Environment and Heritage Ministers are converging today in Darwin for the first Ministerial Council Meeting of 2005.

“The NT Government is placing a priority on our Word War II heritage which we believe is of national significance and could play an expanded role in local tourism,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“I will be telling Minister Ian Campbell that the best of the Territory’s WWII heritage is of national significance and should be considered for national heritage listing. We need to consult widely but with cooperation between Government and landholders I am sure we can make it happen.

“We have an important story to tell – of the men and women who sacrificed their lives and toiled bravely to defend our country on Australian soil. I believe that national listing could really breathe new life into these stories for younger Australians and the many tourists who visit the Territory.”

Ms Scrymgour said 15 WWII sites were already heritage listed under Territory law across the NT. (list attached).

“A national listing of the best of these sites will really put them on the map,” Ms Scrymgour said. “This will play a significant role for the Territory’s tourism, which of course means more jobs and ultimately drives economic growth.”

“I will be providing Minister Campbell with some information on our WWII heritage and offering him the assistance of our heritage experts in working with his Government towards national recognition of some of our sites.”

The Environment and Heritage Ministerial Council will also consider other important issues including the phase out of plastic bags, packaging wastes and water recycling guidelines.

“The NT Government is part of a national push seeking to phase out plastic bags by 2008,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“All Environment Ministers across Australia agreed to this at a Ministerial Conference some time ago, and will be receiving a progress report on this roll-out at tomorrow’s meeting.”

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