Environment and Heritage Minister Marion Scrymgour today announced that $1 million will be spent on repairs and maintenance of Government-owned heritage sites.

This is part of a new funding program from the 2004-05 Budget dedicated to the NT's 73 heritage-listed Government owned sites.

“Our heritage properties are an important part of the Northern Territory’s tourism and lifestyle,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“This Government is very much leading by example on heritage conservation, and as the single largest owner of heritage assets it is important that we set the standard for keeping them in good shape.

“This Budget will see $1 million allocated for repairs and maintenance to heritage properties – that's a dedicated spend that didn't exist under the former Government.

“It also means $1 million for tradesmen and small contractors across the Territory.

“So this is great for heritage, great for the small contractors around the Territory who get more work, and great for tourism.”

Ms Scrymgour said the new Repairs and Maintenance Program will remove the ad hoc expenditure on un-scheduled maintenance and repairs.

“This is a dedicated re-current spend on our heritage icons that will be re-current and will also allow for conservation planning to occur.”

Ms Scrymgour said the project will be jointly managed by the Office of Environment and Heritage, as well as Land Development from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment.

“Both areas will co-ordinate conservation planning and assessment of priority for capital spending,” Ms Scrymgour said. “But initially we will undertake ‘catch-up' works on heritage places that have been under-maintained.”

Some of the heritage sites to undergo repairs or maintenance this year include:

- Araluen Homestead Precinct, Alice Springs
- Bonney Well, Tennant Creek
- Katherine Railway Precinct, Katherine
- WWII Navy Oil Storage Tunnels, Darwin