The banyan tree threatening to destroy Darwin’s Town Hall Ruins will be cut down today.

Lands, Planning and Environment Minister Kon Vatskalis said the tree, planted next to the ruins shortly after Cyclone Tracy, has to be removed before it eventually causes the ruins to be destroyed.

"The tree has insinuated itself into the structure of the Town Hall Ruins," Mr Vatskalis said.

"It has been recommended to the Government by the Heritage Advisory Council that the tree, if left, will result in the destruction of the ruins if it was to be blown over during a storm.

"These ruins are an important part of the Territory’s heritage.

"The building was important and central to the life of Darwin for nearly 100 years before the cyclone. Since then, it has remained as a quiet monument to the tragedy impact of Cyclone Tracy."

Mr Vatskalis said a Heritage officer will oversee the removal of the tree.

He said the removal is one of several steps being taken to both preserve and enhance the ruins.

"New signs are being erected and the Government plans to work with the Heritage Advisory Council to conserve the site," Mr Vatskalis said.

"The old steel reinforcement structures will be removed and replaced with less visible equipment, the concrete capping and re-pointing will be removed, the brick flooring goes, damaged stonework will be replaced and the front steps will be re-instated."

National Trust of Australia (NT) director Elizabeth Close said the removal of the tree was a step that would ensure the ruins are preserved.

"The removal of this tree will avoid further deterioration of the Town Hall Ruins," Ms Close said.

"The ruins can then be repaired and conserved for future generations."