



Marion Scrymgour
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

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NT GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT FOR WAR FLAG

Arts and Museums Minister Marion Scrymgour announced today that she would lobby for an important piece of the Territory's World War II history to be returned to Darwin from the Australian War Memorial.

An Australian Flag that was flown above Government House during WWII, and shot at by Japanese fighter planes has been on display at the War Memorial Museum in Canberra.

"The Territory was in the frontline during the war, and this flag certainly is an iconic item that should form part of our rich heritage relating to WWII," Ms Scrymgour said.

The Museum and Art Galleries of the NT has been in discussion with the War Memorial Museum following concerns raised by Stuart Park Primary School student Zak Menzies recently.

The War Memorial Museum agreed to loan the flag to the Territory in 2007 as part of the 65th anniversary of the bombing of Darwin.

"However I will now personally lobby the Board of the Australian War Museum to have the flag returned to the Northern Territory permanently," Ms Scrymgour said.

"I will as a matter of urgency write to the Board asking to meet with them at their Board meeting next month, and I also extend an offer to Zak to accompany me to this meeting."

The NT Government is committed to preserving the Territory's rich World War II sites. Ms Scrymgour earlier this year wrote to the Federal Government seeking national heritage listing of some of these sites.

"Our heritage places and icons such as this flag are very important in shaping the Territory's identity, but they also play a huge role in our tourism industry.

"The NT Government is placing a priority on better protection, conservation and interpretation of our WWII heritage."

Ms Scrymgour said national heritage listing of some of the best of these sites would be a fitting recognition of the sacrifices made by allied service men and women.

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