



**Media Release:**

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### **Proposed Heritage Declaration of WWII Gould Airfield and Camp**

The Heritage Advisory Council is seeking public comment on the proposed heritage listing of the World War II Gould Airfield and Camp, located near Batchelor.

Chairperson of the Heritage Advisory Council Dr Brian Reid said the Council had recently assessed the remnants of the precinct and determined that it is an excellent example of a World War II Airfield precinct.

“The World War II Gould Airfield and Camp serve as a tangible reminder of Australia’s military build up in the north and the defence of Australia,” Dr Reid said.

“The precinct was constructed in 1943-44 by the No. 61 Works Wing RAAF and is well preserved for its age.

“The precinct is considered highly significant to the Northern Territory and Australia as a relatively undisturbed and intact example of a wartime airfield and defence personnel accommodation site.

“All units based at the airfield played an important role in the Allied Force’s campaign to drive back the invading Japanese in the South West Pacific Region.”

Dr Reid said he believes that the remaining archaeological evidence at the Gould Airfield precinct serves as an important reminder of the impact and extent of Japanese air raids on northern Australia.

“It is important to preserve and protect these sites which serve as vital historical evidence of the air and artillery operations conducted in this region during World War II.”

The Heritage Advisory Council invites written comments on the proposed recommendations by COB Monday 2 March 2009.

To view a copy of the proposed recommendations contact the Heritage Branch on 8999 5039.

For further information on heritage listed sites in the Northern Territory go to [www.nt.gov.au/heritage](http://www.nt.gov.au/heritage).

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**Media Note – For more information contact Dr Brian Reid on 0429 389 840**

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