



**Media Release:**

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### **Proposed Heritage Declaration of Catalina Wrecks**

The Heritage Advisory Council is seeking public comment on the proposed heritage listing of the six Catalina flying boat wrecks located in Darwin Harbour.

This includes the recently discovered 'Catalina six' which is one of three US Navy Catalinas that were sunk by the Japanese during the air attack on Darwin on 19 February 1942.

Chairperson of the Heritage Advisory Council Dr Brian Reid said the Council had recently assessed the 'Catalina six' wreck.

"It not only has great historic significance because of its association with the bombing of Darwin, but it is also significant as an archaeological site because it has a relatively intact structure and there has only been minimal disturbance," Dr Reid said.

"'Catalina six' was one of only 32 Catalinas of its type, the PB4Y-1, which stopped being manufactured in 1939, and was an early Catalina type produced before the mass production phase," Dr Reid said.

"Catalinas were used in long-range reconnaissance, sea rescues and bombing missions, and all six Catalina wrecks in Darwin Harbour were used in frontline missions."

Dr Reid said the Catalina wrecks at East Arm are an important component of the Territory's heritage, and are the only located allied aircraft destroyed on 19 February 1942.

"The Catalina wrecks are physical evidence of the Northern Territory's involvement in World War II flying boat operations," Dr Reid said.

"These wrecks represent some of the last surviving evidence of allied activity on the East Arm peninsula and its surrounding waters, so it is important to preserve and protect these sites which serve as vital historical evidence of the Northern Territory's role in World War II."

The Heritage Advisory Council invites written comments on the proposed recommendations by COB 30 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**

**Historical images attached of Catalina flying boats**

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