Northern Territory Arts Minister Marion Scrymgour today welcomed Arts and Cultural Minsters, including the Federal Arts Minister Peter Garrett, to Alice Springs for the Cultural Ministers Council.

Ms Scrymgour said the Council is a unique opportunity for Ministers from around Australia and New Zealand to share ideas and move forward together to invest in the Arts.

“This is a great opportunity for the Territory to showcase its vibrant arts industry, and share our culture with the rest of Australia,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“Alice Springs is buzzing with the excitement of art at the heart and Desert Mob and there’s no better time for people to appreciate what the arts community in Central Australia and the Territory has to offer.

Ms Scrymgour said the council will release an Indigenous Contemporary Music Plan, which the Territory Government has contributed to significantly.

“Music has been identified as a major potential for employment for Indigenous people which is why the Territory has increased resources towards an Indigenous music touring circuit.

“This plan will also assist young people as music is increasingly integrated into education programs in remote communities.

Also on the agenda at the council is the Indigenous Art Commercial Code of Conduct and Ms Scrymgour will be urging other Ministers to finalise the details of the code of conduct as soon as possible.

“The Territory Government is committed to sign up to the Code, but there have been delays in the process. We are looking to a simpler and more efficient approach to the Code than has been proposed up until now.

The council will also consider the Australian Government response to the Indigenous Arts Senate Inquiry.

Media Contact: Bethaney Jensen 0423 593 999