Tenders Called for Aviation Heritage Centre Upgrade

The Territory Government is calling for tenders to upgrade the Darwin Aviation Heritage Centre.

Arts and Museums Minister Gerry McCarthy said the upgrade is part of the Territory Government’s five-year plan to improve World War II commemorative sites around Darwin.

“Darwin’s role in World War II has shaped our identity and this Government wants to ensure that heritage is properly preserved for locals and visitors,” Mr McCarthy said.

“Upgrading the Darwin Aviation Heritage Centre along the Stuart Highway is a key part of our $11.5 million five-year plan to protect and preserve this vital chapter in our history which includes the construction of a new Defence of Darwin Museum.

“The historical significance of Darwin’s bombing during World War II is of great importance to Territorians and this initiative will ensure history is preserved for current and future generations to appreciate and understand.

“The Centre is managed by the honorary members of the Aviation Historical Society and houses an impressive collection of aircraft and displays depicting the Territory’s involvement in aviation.

“The upgrade will provide major improvements to this important tourist attraction and enhance the visitor’s experience through construction of a new entry and foyer, toilet block and engine bay as well as the installation of three radar dishes.

“The air-conditioned entry foyer will provide a formal entrance to the Centre and house a ticketing, coffee and souvenir shop area and additional exhibition displays.

“The new engine bay roofed area will enable the interpretation of historically important aviation engines such as the Rolls Royce Merlin XXXIII used in Mosquito Fighter Bombers and the Allison 1710 used in USAAF P-40 Kitty Hawks.

“The new toilet block will provide better amenities for Centre visitors and patrons attending functions.”

The four week tender period for this project closes on Wednesday 30 June 2010.

Contact: Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563