$4.5 million Budget win for Araluen Arts Centre

Araluen Arts Centre is set to receive a new state-of-the-art chilled water air-conditioning system in the Territory Government’s 2011 Budget, Minister for the Arts and Museums, Gerry McCarthy announced today.

Minister McCarthy said the funding to construct the new air-conditioning was based on best value for money for taxpayers and community feedback.

“This investment will provide Araluen Arts Centre with new state-of-the-art chilled water air-conditioning and humidity system and protect our priceless Territory artworks,” Minister McCarthy said.

“The new state-of-the-art system will be cheaper to run than the current system and it will emit less greenhouse gases.

“The upgrade will replace the current 26 year old system and ensure the wonderful and priceless works of art at the Araluen Arts Centre can be enjoyed for generations to come.

“The Araluen Arts Centre collection is internationally renowned and is a tourism drawcard – the Collection includes works by Albert Namatjira and some of the earliest works from Papunya dating from the 1970s.

“The Araluen Arts Centre also houses three major collections of artworks by key Aboriginal artists in the movement owned by Warlukurlangu Artists of Yuendumu, the Papunya Community School and the Ngurratjuta Pmara Ntjrra Aboriginal Corporation.

“Air-conditioning is vital to protecting valuable art works which need to be kept in a temperature and humidity controlled environment – it’s also a key factor in being able to secure touring exhibitions.”

Minister McCarthy said the Alice Springs community had shown great interest in the air-conditioning project.

“I would like to thank the Alice Springs community for their feedback to get the best possible result for the Araluen Arts Centre and the community,” Minister McCarthy said.

“This Budget is a big win for Araluen Arts Centre and the Alice Springs community. “

The Territory Government, in Budget 2011, has committed $4.5 million through the Capital Works Program to replace the current aging air-conditioning system.

Tenders for the new air-conditioning system will be called for on 4 May 2011.

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