New legislation establishing the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) as a Statutory Authority, funded by the Northern Territory Government, comes into effect today.

The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Act was passed in Parliament earlier this year and provides the new Board of MAGNT with increased powers to help attract private sector support.

“This new legislation will ensure as many people as possible can enjoy our museums,” Mr Conlan said.

“Allowing the MAGNT to become a Statutory Authority, funded by the Northern Territory Government, will reduce red tape and allow the new Board to attract more philanthropic donations and corporate sponsorships.

“This potential to acquire major art works or scientific material and items of significance to the Territory’s cultural heritage is very exciting.

“More than 200,000 visit MAGNT each year, but with improved programs and exhibitions we hope that number will be able to grow even more.

“The Country Liberals Government understands the important role our unique museums and art galleries play in attracting tourists to the Territory. This new legislation will also allow us to showcase our arts better to tourists and build a more prosperous Territory economy.”

MAGNT Director, Pierre Arpin, said today marks the beginning of a new and vibrant chapter for northern Australia’s most popular cultural institution.

"These new governance arrangements provide MAGNT with an operating model that is generally recognised as the best governance model for cultural and collecting institutions around the world,” Mr Arpin said.

"This new structure will also allow the MAGNT and the Museums and Art Galleries Foundation of the NT to work more closely with the business and philanthropic communities to grow our collections and better support our programs well into the future."

All current MAGNT staff will remain as public sector employees under the new legislation.
Photo attached: Minister Conlan with newly appointed MAGNT Board Chairperson, Mr Allan Myers AO QC, and Director of MAGNT, Mr Pierre Arpin.

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